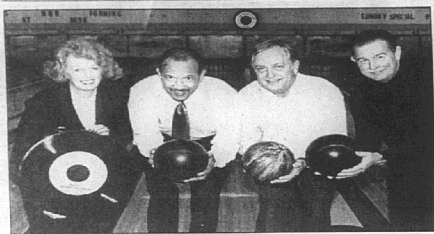



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News



Preparing for the Hardee's Rock and Bowl Around The Clock are, from left, Pat Klossner, Gary Clements, Terry Jarchow and Jim Carter.

Rock and Bowl to aid Junior Achievement

St. Louis area companies, clubs and fraternal organizations will support Junior Achievement by participating in the Hardee's Rock and Bowl Around The Clock the weekend of March 26 through 28.

Rock and Bowl is one of the events Junior Achievement uses to raise funds, said Jim Carter, senior area vice president of Hardee's and the Rock and Bowl co-chairman. Hardee's is the anchor sponsor of the event. Other companies that support the event are Southwest Airlines, Schnucks Supermarkets, the Adam's Mark Hotel, May Department Stores Co. and Sears.

The Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley chapter has been involved with local students for more than 50 years. The local chapter includes 34 counties in Missouri and Illinois. "Junior Achievement exists to give students a better understanding of our free-enterprise system and to help them be better prepared to become productive citizens when they enter the work force," Carter said.

"In the seven years of Hardee's Rock and Bowl, JA has raised nearly \$700,000 for Junior Achievement," said Gary Clements, district general manager of Sears and co-chairman of the event.

When Terry Jarchow, the current president of Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley, joined the organization 29 years ago, he noted there were only 7,000 students taking part in the local program.

This year, he said he anticipates an increase to almost 120,000 students.

"Our goal is to reach 20 percent of the local student population with Junior Achievement programs by the year 2005," Jarchow said.

Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley provides economic-education programs for students from kindergarten through 12th grade and is one of the largest JA branches in the country, said Pat Klossner, senior vice president.

Although Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley is a part of the national Junior Achievement program, it is locally run by a diverse board of 72 people who are members of the business and civic communities, Jarchow said.

The current board chairman is Scott Schnuck, president and chief operating officer of Schnucks Supermarkets. The Junior Achievement Rock and Bowl Around The Clock will start at 6 p.m. March 26 and roll through Sunday evening, March 28, at the Tropicana Lanes, 7960 Clayton Road.

Registration forms are available at area Hardee's restaurants and Schnucks Supermarkets or by calling Junior Achievement headquarters at 731-4000.

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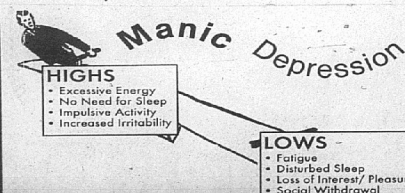
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Mobile home fire under investigation

Nearby resident reported seeing light in vacant trailer before fire

By Mike Hall
Staff writer

A fire engulfed a mobile home early Friday morning, and residents close to the trailer had to be evacuated.

The fire occurred at 67 Parktowne Drive. The cause of it has not been determined, but an official from the Granite City Fire Departments said the blaze was suspicious; it is under

investigation. No one was injured. Damage to the trailer was about \$5,000.

According to the Granite City Fire Department, a call was received at the station at about 12:28 a.m. When firefighters arrived at the scene about three minutes later, the trailer was engulfed.

Residents near the trailer were evacuated by police until firefighters brought the blaze under control at about 2:28 a.m.

According to a police report, a neighbor

close to the trailer was returning from work when he saw a light on inside the trailer shortly before it became engulfed. The man said the fire began shortly after the light was turned off.

Another resident in the vicinity tried to knock on the door to see if assistance could be offered to anyone inside. No one occupied the trailer, but she noticed that the front door was ajar.

The trailer was last occupied last July, police said.

Man charged with sex abuse involving girl, 14

Victim's mother learned of affair from letter

By Mike Hall
Staff writer

A Granite City man was arrested and charged with one count of aggravated criminal sexual abuse Tuesday.

Keith Fish, who listed his address in the 1100 block of St. Thomas

Road, was being held in the Madison County Jail in Edwardsville in lieu of \$75,000 bond for one count of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

According to Granite City police, Fish allegedly had consensual sex last June with a 14-year-old girl. The two allegedly then had consensual sex until they

stopped seeing each other in August or September.

The victim's mother learned of their relationship by reading letters which her daughter and Fish had written to one another. In one letter, the victim wrote that she believed that she was pregnant.

After their breakup, Fish allegedly began writing threatening letters to the victim and her relatives.

According to the report, he also allegedly stalked the girl on several occasions. He would repeatedly drive by her bus stop and up and down the street where she lived. At one point, he drove to the school she attends.

The victim's mother apparently knew of Fish's actions for about five months.

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Police log

Granite City

• **Cops**
BURGLARY: A home in the 2100 block of Delmar Avenue was broken into late Thursday evening. Items valued at about \$560 were allegedly taken. According to Granite City police, the items taken were a RCA television, Super Nintendo, Wheel of Fortune Nintendo and other various items relating to the Nintendo game set. The report stated an upstairs apartment was broken into about 11:53 in which everything was taken from the living room and a hall dresser. The victim stated that she did not hear anyone enter the apartment, but noticed the items missing when she awoke that morning.

Tourney will aid funeral fund

An eight-ball tournament to benefit the funeral fund of Missy Clark, a bartender at Martin's Pub, will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 7, at Eddie's Bar & Grill, 2900 Nameoki Road.

There is a \$5 entry fee. There will be free food, and \$1 beer.

Clark, 36, of Granite City, died Feb. 15.

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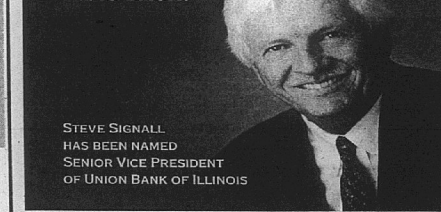
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Group helps those left behind deal with grief

Hospice offers meetings and workshops

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

Death is inevitable.
And with it comes grief.

To help people deal with those issues, Hospice of Madison County offers two monthly bereavement support group meetings and has a series of special workshops slated throughout the year.

The first meeting is set for March 25. The support group, People Needing People, meets at two locations. On the second Tuesday of each month, the group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the nursing conference room at Anderson Hospital in Maryville. A second group meets the third Thursday of each month from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Sister Mary Thomas Conference Room at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City. Nancy Kaprelian, a coordinator with the hospice, said there is a need for people who have suffered losses to come together. "Support groups are not for everyone," she said. "Some people grieve on their own, but others find the group is very helpful. "People who have lost somebody find it easier to talk with other people who have suffered a similar loss. Sometimes, when you're grieving, you just go over and over again with the same stories. It can get tiring to your family members and friends."

The Granite City group was recently reformed after being stopped last year. Kaprelian said that support group had also been meeting in the evening before being stopped last year.

"But we kept getting calls," she said. "We started analyzing it, and we started realizing that in the Granite City area, we were dealing with an aging population and they didn't like coming out at night."

While the support groups are for everybody, the workshops are designed to help people deal with specific problems, such as the loss of a child or the anticipated death of someone with a terminal illness.

These workshops will all be at SEMC:

- Adult Children: Grieving the Loss of a Parent — 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 25, in Pascal Hall.

- Good Grief: Getting Through Life's Losses — 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, May 27, in the Sis. Mary Thomas Conference Room.

- Anticipatory Grieving: Making the Most of Borrowed Time — 6:30-8 p.m. July 22 in the Sis. Mary Thomas Conference Room.

- How to Help Children Cope with Grieving — 6:30-8 p.m. Sept. 23 in the Sister Mary Thomas Conference Room.

- Holiday Blues: How to Cop Constructively With the Holidays When You're Grieving — 1:30-3 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Nov. 17 in Pascal Hall.



Tim Stephenson photo

New store

Work is under way on the new Casey's convenience store being built on Illinois 203 in Madison. Workers from Fuller Bros. of Hillsboro were pouring the foundation for the building last week.

Firm to begin test dredging

City is seeking developers for 119-acre property

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

A consultant will begin test dredging on city of Madison property in an attempt to entice prospective developers. At last week's City Council meeting, consultant Glenn

O'Bryan said he plans to dredge sand from the "North Borrow property." The city is attempting to attract an outside company to dredge the property for sand and gravel. The city would be paid a royalty on the materials, and O'Bryan would be paid a percentage. The 119-acre property, north of the Milam Landfill, was

originally given to the city by Waste Management Inc. The city had sought bids to develop the land twice before, but there were no bids. At the time, O'Bryan said there was probably not enough local demand yet, but anticipated that the demand would increase. In other business, a third-party lawsuit between a contractor, the city of Madison and Gateway International Raceway has been settled. The City Council approved forwarding a \$113,134 check to Keely & Sons Inc. of East St. Louis for work on an entrance to the raceway. Although Gateway was responsible for paying for the project, the city was named in the suit because the work went through it as part of the tax increment financing district. Some engineering and legal fees remain to be worked out, said Mayor John Hamm.

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Letters to the Editor

East Side Publications, Attn. Letters,
1815 Delmar, Granite City, Ill 62040

Some thoughts on our latest national nightmare's end It sure didn't do much for us as a nation or people

By Mary Buettner

Now that the impeachment trial is over, it seems a good time to sum up what happened.

And since just about everyone in the world has given their perspective, I figure it's my turn now.

I heard three main arguments advanced as to why Clinton should remain in office:

1. The whole thing was just about sex and you don't remove a president over sex.
2. While Clinton's conduct was reprehensible, indefensible, etc., it didn't rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors.
3. The economy is in terrific shape and Clinton is responsible for that, so he shouldn't be removed.
4. He's very sorry for what he did.

I'll take each argument in turn. First, I don't agree with the folks who say the whole thing was just about sex. There were lies, cover stories, cover-ups, efforts to obstruct evidence and more lies. That's more than just sex. Instead, I think it would be better to say that the whole thing was based on sex.

Whether you think a president should be removed from office over something based on sex depends on your perspective. For example, my sister is one of the people who says Clinton should not have been removed because the issue was about sex and, in her opinion, sex just isn't an important enough reason to remove a president.

She lost her 15-year teaching job last year because she participated in union organizing activities at her Catholic school. Now, of course, the formal reason for her removal was something far different, but anyone who was there knows she lost her job because she supported the St. Louis Archdiocesan elementary teachers' right to join a union.

If my sister hadn't worked for one of the few employers who can legally remove employees for their union-organizing activities and the matter had turned out differently and the school principal had instead been the one who lost her job, one of the parents or parishioners might have said to my sister, "I don't think it's right that the principal lost her job over a union issue. A union issue just isn't an important enough thing to remove a principal over."

Well, it depends on your perspective or, more importantly, on your experiences.

My sister certainly believes a union issue is an important enough reason to remove a principal. And you can be sure Paula Jones believes sexual harassment is an important enough reason to remove a president.

Second, did the matter rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors?

When considering this question, it's hard to not make comparisons to the Nixon misdeeds, which most people thought rose to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors. There are obvious similarities: Both men tried to cover up some bad deeds and lied and maneuvered evidence in the process. But there's one difference I think is important: The evidence has never established that Nixon participated in the bad deeds (i.e., the break-ins). His downfall was in trying to cover them up.

Conversely, there's no doubt that Clinton himself participated in some, if not all, of the bad deeds in his case. And then he tried to cover those deeds up.

At this point, I can't return to the argument Clinton was only trying to cover up something about sex, whereas Nixon was trying to cover up something far more serious.

But is that correct? Which is more serious? Trying to prevent a sexual harassment plaintiff from making a case or spying on your political foes in connection with an election?

Third, how much credit is Clinton due for the current state of the economy? I don't think any modern-day president—whether he (or hopefully, someday soon, she) is Republican, Democrat, independent, undecided, or other—can be single-handedly responsible for the state of a good (or bad) economy.

The president just doesn't have that kind of power. If we were to point to one person with that power (although I don't believe any one person has such power), I think it would be Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan who'd be a much more realistic choice.

And how sorry is Clinton for what he did? We've certainly heard a lot of heartfelt apologies.

But for me, I can't get out of my mind the clip of Clinton stepping away from the camera at the news conference where he pointed his finger and said that he never had sexual relations with that woman, Ms. Lewinsky.

As he stepped away, I saw this look that said, "I sure fooled them. Aren't I clever?"

I may be wrong, but it seems to me our president is a lot sorer for getting caught than for anything else.

An item I haven't heard discussed much in the media, but one I think plays a part, is the fact Clinton is an attorney. Sure, most people don't much care for attorneys. And most people would probably be surprised to discover that some attorneys, as a general rule, don't care much for attorneys either.

But the fact is, when we become attorneys, we take an oath to uphold the Constitution and the other laws of this country.

And I don't mean we just sign our name to some piece of paper. Instead, we stand before a judge (or in some cases several judges) and we hold up our hand and swear to uphold those laws.

I believe someone who has taken that oath and who persists in committing perjury is even more reprehensible than the ordinary citizen who commits perjury.

Much has been made of the Tripp tapes. Maybe those recordings were legal, maybe they weren't.

But anybody who's gone up against someone with more power and more money knows that you'd better have some proof before you take on such a battle. If you were going up against the most powerful man in the world, don't you think it would be a good idea to have some tapes to back up your story?

It's probably best at this point to not to draw too many conclusions from this whole matter. Criminal charges may still be brought against Clinton, so the story may not be over.

I had hoped that a Democrat would step forward during the process and shine as a rational, reasonable, non-partisan and analytical leader, despite the party ramifications.

That didn't happen, however. I looked a few times like Sen. Robert Byrd might be that person, but he changed his direction so many times it makes one wonder if senility has set in.

Time will tell the conclusion. But for now, I draw three conclusions:

1. I'm glad the impeachment is over.
2. There is now general confusion over what the definition of the word "is" is.
3. The whole thing didn't do much to help adjust the country's moral compass.

Opinions



An open bigot's not all that dangerous Let East Peoria lawyer wannabe keep putting foot in mouth

Carol Clarkin

Even someone as opinionated as I am occasionally runs across a dilemma, one where you find yourself mentally arguing both sides of a question. Something like the good old days of high school debate team.

Currently, in my case, it's the well-publicized question of whether or not Matthew Hale should be licensed to practice law in Illinois.

Hale, a 27-year-old resident of East Peoria, graduated last spring from the Southern Illinois Law School at SIU's Carbondale campus, and in July passed the Illinois bar exam. To date, he has been refused a license to practice by a three-member inquiry panel, appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court and consisting of an associate judge and two private attorneys.

It's a matter of character rather than qualifications, based on a necessary certification by the panel that the applicant has "moral character and general fitness."

I'll resist the golden opportunity to make a cheap joke here because the panel certainly has reason to question his character.

In addition to being a law school graduate, Hale is the head of a pretty dubious group called the "World Church of the Creator," which advocates the deportation of American nonwhites. The group, Hale

chairman of the Illinois Bar's Board of Admissions, only 25 cases such as Hale's were referred to the review panel, out of more than 3,000 people who took the state's bar exam. Hale was the only one who did. Illinois lawyers themselves are divided in their opinions, or so say news reports on the problem. That's to be expected, I'd guess.

The director of the Illinois chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union suspects that denial of certification to Hale may be a violation of his First Amendment rights (free speech), and I tend to agree that there is such a possibility.

And, believe it or not, the Greater Chicago Anti-Defamation League, which mainly represents Jewish interests, calls the panel's decision setting a

dangerous precedent. On a personal level, I despise racism. I don't like bigots. But I treasure my own right to freedom of speech and, it must follow, that of others.

Give Hale his certification and let him practice law. He hasn't tried to cover his unsavory beliefs, and I figure an open bigot is less dangerous than a hidden one.

Let's face it, a lawyer like Hale isn't going to find himself with any black or Jewish clients. He might even have to depend on his fellow members of the "World Church" for a living.

Let him hang out his shingle. But I'll pray he does it in East Peoria and not in Madison County.

Carol Clarkin of Edwardsville is a retired reporter.

Letter to the Editor Policy

The Granite City Journal encourages its readership to voice their opinions on current issues by writing a letter to the editor. Letters must be no more than 350 words and include your name and city.

Also include your telephone number, which will be used to confirm authorship and will not be printed.

Send your letters to Granite City Journal, 1815 Delmar, Granite City, Ill. 62040, or to Journals of Southern Illinois, 219 N. Illinois, Belleville, Ill. 62220. Letters may also be faxed to 876-4240 (Granite City), 277-7018 (Belleville) or e-mailed to illinoisns@primary.net.

Letter To The Editor

GCHS teacher got railroaded

To The Editor:
We are taxpayers and concerned citizens of Granite City. We work hard and make sacrifices so that we can provide the best care possible for our children.

I fought out the very best pre-school in Granite City. Many people recommended Mrs. Cathy Riebold's class at the high school.

I have been very happy with her program. She does more with the kids than any of the other classes. For example, she has an actual graduation program with the cap and gown for the preschoolers. None of the other classes have that.

I was very dismayed when she was transferred to Grigsby Middle School with less than 12 hours notice. The school district has treated her very unfairly.

She has provided me with a copy of her legal documentation. I don't even understand why she would want to teach in such an atmosphere of evil, except her classroom is filled with care and love. I know it is where she is happiest, teaching small children and older children to be good people. I know her students are proud of her as she is proud of them.

No one on the Board of Education, nor the administrators who attended the last board meeting, can be proud of their action. If there was a good reason for sending Mrs. Riebold away from our children, they should be willing to tell us.

I don't know much about the law, but I know from the conversations I had with administrators, they have set out to ruin her reputation and her career.

The students and adults of Granite City deserve better. They deserve a teacher who truly cares about them and not just there for a job.

Go to the next board meeting on March 9 and tell the Board of Education what they need to hear. Seven men are running our children's lives and education and they are not doing what is best for them!

Rhonda Tippler
Granite City

Granite City Journal

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County will spread word about tax cap election

Lack of public interest concerns some officials

By Paul Mackie
Staff writer

Madison County officials are concerned about the lack of interest in the April 13 tax cap referendum.

So the Legislative Committee decided Thursday to recommend that the Madison County Board launch an advertising campaign to educate the public about how a cap could affect property taxes.

"Spending a little extra money to inform the public is not out of line," County Clerk Mark Von Nida told committee members.

He said no proponents of the plan have stepped forward, so county officials should feel obligated to distribute facts since the County Board decided unanimously in December to put the question to voters.

"Normally, the process would be for proponents to gather petitions and interest. The County Board has the authority to place it on the ballot, but there's an absence of anybody speaking out on this thing," Von Nida said. Committee members are concerned that voters will see the complicated wording on the ballot, which will include "tax" and "limits" side by side, and automatically be in favor of the proposal.

"As for an individual tax bill going down, it's not going to happen," said Wayne Bridgewater, D-Roxana. "We're not going to create a tax Utopia."

If the proposal passes, Von Nida said individuals are likely to receive "big fat" tax bills in April and June and wonder why the board put tax caps on the ballot.

"All this really does is slow down the (taxing) process a little bit in a couple of years," Bridgewater said.

If the proposal is approved, most taxing bodies in the county would not be allowed to raise their tax levies more than 5 percent or above the inflation rate — whichever is less — unless the increase is approved in a referendum. Although it eventually would work as a "cap," taxing bodies may dramatically raise property taxes in anticipation of the year 2000, when the legislation would go into effect. On the other hand, a tax cap would also prohibit controversies like the one late last year in which some county employees received raises of as much as 8.8 percent.



Officers

The Pontoon Beach Senior Citizens' officers for 1999 are: seated from left, Ruth Dagon, secretary; Earl Edmiston, president; John Forrest, vice president; and Jim Hill, treasurer; standing from left, trustees Helen Hutton, Robbie Wilson, Rose Edmiston, Walter Crowell, Edna Bennett, Nellie Forrest and Irene Karlechik.

Historical Society plans auction

Event slated for next Saturday at Wood River Moose Lodge

By Scott Cousins
Staff writer

The Madison County Historical Society will host a fund-raising dinner and auction March 13 at the Wood River Moose Lodge, located at the intersection of Illinois 143 and Illinois 111 in Wood River.

The program includes a cocktail hour and silent auction beginning at 5:30 p.m., with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m.

The cost of the dinner is \$12.50 per person, or a table of eight for \$100. Entertainment will be by Silver Belles and a Beau.

For information, to reserve tickets or to donate items for the auction, call the museum at 656-7542 or committee members at 656-3781 or 462-0315.

The museum is located in the Weir House at 715 N. Main St in Edwardsville. The house was built in 1836 and became the museum in 1964.

Because of crowded conditions, the society recently

purchased a new building at 801 N. Main. Renovations are expected to take about two years. When completed, the new building will have an auditorium, storage space and the society's research rooms.

In addition to cased exhibits, period rooms and research facilities, the museum has special exhibits year-round.

Through March 14, a collection of photographs ranging from kittens to cathedrals by Kathryn H. Barkson, a Granite City resident who serves on the society's Board of Directors, is on display.

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1960 Wow! You'll never forget cruising around in that new car you bought from a classified ad!

1962 Little Matthew looked so brave the first time he walked up on that stage advertised in classified.

1970 When Chris came along unexpectedly, you were glad to have more space, so you turned again to classified.

1974 You were able to have plenty of great photos at Sara's wedding since you picked up that camera you spotted in classified.

1982 Although you know you'd miss your old car, it was time to trade up to more power. And time to call classified.

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1988

Suburban Journals

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Notorious killer Engleman dies in prison in Missouri

Dentist killed 3 people in county in 1970s

By Steve Whitworth
Staff writer

Glenn Engleman was the mastermind behind three of the most notorious murders in Madison County history.

Engleman died Wednesday in the infirmary at the Jefferson City, Mo., Correctional Center, where he had been treated for diabetes. He was 71.

Engleman was serving two life sentences for separate murder convictions in Missouri, but he also had pleaded guilty to the 1977 killings of Arthur and Vernita Gusewelle of rural Edwardsville, as well as their son, Ronald Gusewelle, who was slain in 1979 at his home outside Edwardsville.

The killings of the Gusewelles shocked and frightened the community, but a painstaking investigation finally led to the solution of the cases in 1984.

As it turned out, Engleman, who was a dentist in St. Louis, had conspired with Barbara Jean Gusewelle Boyle, who had been married to Ronald Gusewelle at the time of the murders.

She was acquitted of the charges involving the slayings of her husband's parents but convicted of murdering Ronald Gusewelle. She is serving a 50-year sentence at the Dwight Correctional Center.

Don Weber, who was Madison County state's attorney at the time the charges were filed in the Gusewelle killings, compared Engleman to the Nazis who masterminded the killings of millions of people in concentration camps during World War II.

"He himself said his best quality was his ability to kill without remorse," Weber recalled. "He talked about murder the way other people would talk about their grandchildren."

Former Edwardsville resident Susan Crain Bakos wrote a book about Engleman titled "Appointment for Murder: The Story of the Killing Dentist," which was published in 1987 and later made into a television movie. The book was based largely on telephone interviews with Engleman after he had been imprisoned.

Engleman sometimes telephoned her daily for months at a time.

"He would call to talk to me about his murders," said Bakos, whose eighth book will be published this spring. "He described to me the thrill of killing someone. He said it was

"He himself said his best quality was his ability to kill without remorse. He talked about murder the way other people would talk about their grandchildren."

Don Weber
Former prosecutor

even better than sex."

Engleman's method was to have affairs with women and to persuade them to marry other men, who then would be killed for their insurance money.

In pleading guilty to the Gusewelle killings, Engleman told how he and an accomplice, Robert Handy, went to the family's farmhouse Nov. 3, 1977. Engleman said he wore a suit, knocked on the door and told the Gusewelles he was from the Farm Bureau.

After they let him in, Engleman pulled a gun and rope from his briefcase. He tied up Arthur Gusewelle, 61, and his 55-year-old wife and forced them to lie on the floor. According to Weber, Engleman told investigators that Handy shot the victims in the backs of their heads at close range, but Bakos said that Engleman later admitted to her that he was the trigger man.

The Gusewelles were killed so their son, Ronald, would inherit part of their estates, investigators said. Barbara Gusewelle Boyle took out insurance policies on her husband's life.

The body of Ronald Gusewelle, 33, was found inside his car April 4, 1979, in East St. Louis. Evidence later showed he actually had been shot and beaten to death by Engleman and Handy when he arrived home several days earlier and was confronted by his killers in the garage.

Bakos expressed sympathy for Gusewelle Boyle, calling her a "tragic" figure, but Weber said she was just as guilty as Engleman.

"She was actively involved in the murder," Weber said. "She married Ron for the express purpose of running up his insurance and murdered him. She knew that his parents were going to be killed."

"She stonewalled the whole thing, then lived a lavish lifestyle on the blood money she got out of it. She's no Maid Marian."

Obituaries

Lydia Boda

LYDIA A. BODA, 73, of Glen Carbon, died Monday, March 1, 1999, at Rosewood Care Center in Edwardsville.

Mrs. Boda was born Aug. 5, 1925, in St. Louis. She was a retired secretary from St. John Lutheran Church, was a member Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and assisted her husband in his ministry at St. John Lutheran Church.

Survivors include her husband, the Rev. Samuel Boda; two daughters, Phyllis Jarabak of Glen Carbon and Ellen Miller of St. Louis; two sons, James Boda of Collinsville and Luther Boda of Granite City; and five grandchildren, Emily and Elizabeth Jarabak, Katherine and Matthew Miller and Kelly Boda.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Stephen and Katherine (Urban) Boor.

Services were Thursday at St. John Lutheran Church in Granite City, with the Rev. Michael Walther officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon. Memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Church or Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Kenneth Oliver Sr.

KENNETH N. OLIVER SR., 67, of Belleville died Sunday, Feb. 28, 1999, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville.

Mr. Oliver was born Dec. 23, 1931, in East St. Louis. He retired as an exterminator from Guarante Exterminator.

Survivors include his wife, Eliza-

beth (Herbert) Oliver; his children, Kenneth Oliver Jr. and Vickie Cheek, both of Belleville; Larry Oliver of Chicago, and Diane Alwood of Collinsville; two brothers, Nacie Oliver Jr. of Glen Carbon, and Cecil Oliver of Collinsville; and his grandchildren, Kenneth III and Susan Oliver, Stacey, David and Andrew Alwood, and Brandon Cheek.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. Nacie and Josie (Wimbary) Oliver Sr.; and two sisters, Hazel Edgington and Opal Price.

Services were Wednesday, March 3, at Kasky Mortuary Chapel in Fairview Heights with the Rev. Billy Price officiating. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery in Belleville.

Pension reform bill gets support

Continued from Page 1A

one in the Senate.

"Evidently, other counties are having the same problems," committee chairman Alan Dandaneau, D-Troy, said. "The state legislators who voted for it didn't think it would be a problem, but most of us are looking at it as an abuse."

Pensions for elected county officials were enhanced with the introduction of the plan in Madison County in 1997.

Previously, those officials received the same retirement benefits as regular county employees.

However, public office was deemed less attractive because

elected officials don't get sick time or vacation pay, and pensions were minimal for those who didn't remain in office long, County Clerk Mark Von Nida said.

State Sen. Evelyn Bowles, D-Edwardsville, has said her fellow legislators are pushing amendments dealing with the retirement plan.

The loopholes allowed former board member Tony Bosich, D-Wood River, to take a pump operator's job at the Metro East Sanitary District three weeks before retiring from the Madison County Board.

With the move, Bosich, 79, increased his county pension by \$21,410 to \$29,323.

County administrator James Monday said the county's

contribution to elected officials under the old plan would have been only \$43,307 this year. But under the Elected County Officials plan, the county will pay \$153,764, an increase of \$109,889.

Under the regular Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, the county pays 8 percent of an employee's annual salary, while an employee pays 4½ percent. Those employees qualify for full pensions, or 75 percent of their final salaries, after 40 years of service.

With the introduction of the Elected County Officials plan, the county pays 37 percent of an elected official's salary.

Workers at plant lose jobs

Continued from Page 1A

Of the affected staff, Herodek said that about 45 were active union workers and four others were on leave. Another 28 were office and clerical staff.

Despite the lack of warning, the employees were not being left completely in the lurch. Herodek, who worked at the plant for three years, said the company was giving a severance package for both hourly and salaried employees. Details of that package were still being negotiated and health insurance coverage was extended for at least 30 days, Herodek said.

Employees who heard the announcement were sent home after learning of the buyout. Herodek said all employees were paid for the balance of

the day.

Others found out when they showed up for work and were not admitted to the building. Workers declined comment referring a reporter to John Becker, business representative for Teamsters Local 688 of St. Louis, who represents their union.

Becker was not available for comment Friday afternoon.

Building will be renovated for firm

Continued from Page 1A

The city, Hamil said, has financial authority to issue bonds to spur economic growth, but doesn't have any financial obligations to repay the debt. He said that all funds are repaid from company operations, adding that Union Bank of Edwardsville purchased the industrial bonds and arranged other financing to facilitate the project.

The building will be used by

Illinois Electric Works to rebuild and remanufacture large pumps and motors for industrial firms like electric power plants and steel mills.

Illinois Electric Works is currently located in East St. Louis, where it has been for 60 years. When the company moves to Granite City, Hamil said, a division of it will remain operational in East St. Louis.

"We will still have some operations on the East Side," Hamil said. "The seven acres of land surrounding the

building was too good to pass up. Therefore, we felt like we had to move."

The company's move will bring 32 jobs to Granite City. Hamil said if it weren't for Granite City Mayor Ron Selph and Dan Brown, the company would not have relocated.

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'An'
By Ronnie F. Staff writer
Paul Vitti
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'Analyze This' fairly good comedy if you don't analyze it

By Ronnie Roy
Staff writer

Paul Vitti has a problem. He's just not been the same since his mentor was gunned down outside a restaurant as the two of them were leaving.

REVIEW head of one of New York's most powerful crime families, Vitti is having trouble breathing, sleeping and pleasing his mistress.

While discussing plans for an upcoming meeting, Vitti has what he thinks is a heart attack. Rushed to the hospital, he is shocked when the doctor informs him he didn't have a heart attack, but more likely had a panic attack.

Vitti has the man roughed up for such a diagnosis, but then decides maybe he should secretly seek professional help.

Such is the premise for "Analyze This," the new comedy by director Harold Ramis ("Caddyshack," "Groundhog Day," "Multiplicity"). Robert De Niro stars as the gangster Vitti, a role common for him, but not usually in a comedy.

We're never given any reason to fear Vitti, relying apparently on our recollections of De Niro in other films. Even Sobol's young son isn't scared of the mob boss.

As luck would have it, Vitti's bodyguard, Jelly (Joe Viterelli), recently had a run-in, literally, with psychiatrist Ben Sobol (Billy Crystal). Sobol had rear-ended Jelly's car in traffic.

A very apologetic Sobol wanted to trade insurance cards, but with a body in the trunk, Jelly was more interested in forgetting the whole thing. Sobol gives Jelly his business card, which Jelly gives to Vitti once the boss decides he needs help.

When Vitti goes to Sobol for help, the psychiatrist is at first terrified, later annoyed, and eventually genuinely concerned with the gangster. He initially refuses to help Vitti, but Vitti, of course, doesn't take "no" for an answer. When Sobol flies to Miami to meet his fiancée, Laura (Lisa Kudrow), Vitti ends up right behind him, dragging him out of bed for a

late night therapy session. Vitti needs immediate help. All the mob bosses will be coming into town in a week for a meeting and he can't be having crying fits in their presence.

He has other problems as well. Rival boss Sindone (Chazz Palminteri) has sent men to Miami to kill him.

Sobol, meanwhile, is caught between the mob and a hard place. He knows Vitti's problems can't be fixed quickly, his new patient is causing problems with his new family, the FBI want to know why he's consorting with gangsters, and he's not sure he can trust Vitti.

"Analyze This" is a mixed bag. On the plus side, there are several funny moments, and Viterelli is great as Vitti's not-too-bright but loyal bodyguard.



Robert De Niro, Billy Crystal and Lisa Kudrow in a scene from "Analyze This."

On the other hand, De Niro's crying scenes, lacking tears, are awkward. And we're never given any reason to fear Vitti, relying apparently on our recollections of De Niro in

other films. Even Sobol's young son isn't scared of the mob boss. When Sobol, forced to cover for Vitti at the big meeting, started going into a comedy

shtick, I was hoping Sindone would shoot him. Not a good sign. "Analyze This" is a fairly effective comedy, as long as you don't analyze it.

Horoscope

SUNDAY, MARCH 7
The Scorpio moon gives rise to deep-seated emotions. You can't expect lovers to be lighthearted, as everything will remind people of unexpressed inner truths. It takes plenty of personal strength to work up the courage to be right in absolute honesty. Offer help to those who depend on you, as everyone needs support today.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(March 7). You are a rising star. Sudden career and financial assistance this month gives you a motivating start. An Aquarius or a Scorpio is the ideal partner. Legal problems end in June. Start fresh — don't try to make an old business work. Raises arrive in July but only if you plant the seeds now.
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Break out of your shell. Public

performances or shows bring good luck. If you slip up, take responsibility, and then, move onto something new. Let a certain someone know if your space is being invaded.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
A creative project deserves more time. Diligence is more important than speed. Financial news is unexpected. A lover is trying to make you jealous; confront his or her insecurities. Emphasize educational goals.

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Movie Schedule

Film timetable for Sunday, March 7. For times on other days or to confirm these times, check local theaters.
CARMIE PETITE
1:20 and Hwy. 157, Collinsville, Ill. 344-709
Analyze This (R) 2:05, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
Blast From the Past (PG-13) 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
My Favorite Martian (PG) 2:15, 4:20, 7:10, 9:20
8 MM (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
EASTGATE CINE
Eastgate Mall, Ill. 254-5229
Cruel Intentions (R) 2:15, 5:00, 7:30
Analyze This (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:10
Message In A Bottle (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:20
My Favorite Martian (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 6:50
The Other Sister (PG-13) 1:40, 4:00, 7:00
Sho's All That (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 6:40, 9:15

NAMEOKI CINEMA
30 Nameoki Village, 877-6690
Payback (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
Mighty Joe Young (PG) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20
SHOWCASE 12
6632 Center Grove Rd., 659-7468
Payback (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
Message In A Bottle (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 9:55
Cruel Intentions (R) 2:40, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55
My Favorite Martian (PG) 2:30, 5:10, 7:15
Office Space (R) 3:30
Analyze This (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:10
Blast From the Past (PG-13) 1:10, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20
Shakespeare in Love (R) 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 9:55
The Other Sister (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
8 MM (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
200 Cigarettes (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 9:35
October Sky (PG) 1:40, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
Play the field. An outing with friends leads to romance. A windfall allows you some creature comforts. Meet deadlines, or pay the price. Relatives concerned about your spending habits should mind their own business.
CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Apologize immediately for a missed date or late phone call. Employers and colleagues are forgiving when you have good reasons. Consider striking out on your own in business. Love blossoms with a neighbor.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 23)
You can still save a friendship by letting bygones be bygones. Open your eyes to the opportunities around you. A lover appreciates a romantic gesture. Family members reject new ideas; don't take it

personally.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
A sudden stroke of genius enables you to turn ordinary work into a masterpiece. Explore new methods of saving and investing. Resist giving in to unreasonable demands. A stormy love affair begins to calm.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Go all out to make a child's day special. A partner invites you to share in an important decision. You receive good news by telephone. Avoid quarreling over finances with a relative. Be accommodating.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You have more influence than you know over a child or younger relative; be alert. Make an effort to include a family member in the day's activities. A windfall is possible. Have faith in a lover's skill.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Nerves cramp your style a bit when you are in the spotlight. Family members support a creative or business endeavor. Financial considerations after your travel plans. Colleagues ask for romantic advice.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Of course, you know better than to make jokes at the expense of others, but this is a reminder. Extend financial assistance to a relative if you can afford it. You might finally meet with your Internet pal!
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
What seemed like a hopeless situation suddenly takes a turn for the better. Time spent with loved ones is enlightening. Shopping trips lead to incredible bargains. Spend a couple of extra hours reviewing a project.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
An argument comes to nothing good, so why bother in the first place? Choose your battles. Relatives come to accept a departure from their tradition. Set strict personal spending limits. A career move leads to romance.

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Give thanks before receiving God's gifts

Tucked away for safe keeping in the smooth, secret folds of my Bible is a 5-by-7-inch piece of white stationery.

Boarded with pastel blue trim and little pink flowers, this neatly folded yet worn paper has been my companion for many years.

Written on this stationery is a detailed list of my goals, the things that I hoped for my future, my career, personal life and innermost dreams. At the end of my list I wrote three words: "Thank you, Lord."

I gave thanks to God before my wishes and hopes were granted. Giving thanks activated my faith and trust. I always pray for guidance and His will for my life. Ask for what you want, but be willing to gratefully accept what He gives. "Your heavenly Father knows what you need before you ask Him," states Matthew 6:8.

"Trust that the good Lord in His infinite wisdom knows best and that in His perfect time He will reveal it to you. "We're impatient at times, and we think we know what's right for us, but God does know best," wrote reader Kathy Ortoliva.

A New You



Catherine Galasso

"Take a moment now to reflect, collect and revive your innermost desires. He who created you listens with care to the words of your prayers, the beating of your heart and the secrets of your soul. God can give you everything and more than you can ever imagine, so don't limit His amazing ability or your own."

Look at how much you have gained for you already and all the wonderful qualities that only you possess. You can succeed and soar to new heights. Pursue what you are passionate about, for true success is loving what you do. You have the capability of realizing your divine vision. Have clear-cut goals. You must have a plan of action

before your objectives will crystallize. Choose goals that will benefit others as well as yourself and you will be blessed for well doing.

Work hard and be patient. Even small steps will eventually get you to your destination. There are no shortcuts to success.

Remove any negative elements from your life. Close your ears to naysayers. We all come across unexpected curves, hills and valleys. But, all that happens to us shapes who we are.

When obstacles come, and they will, continue to persevere. "Never, never, never, never, give up," as Winston Churchill once said. Rely on the Lord's strength. "Give the problem to God," writes reader Jeanette Cardona. "Leave it in His hands."

Trust that your time of hardship will not last. What seems dark and gloomy today will turn into a spectacular display of character and beauty.

Once all I had were dreams. At church last week, that little piece of notepaper fell from out of my Bible. As I read and reread it, tears filled my eyes and ran down my face.

Feeling of sadness? On the contrary, I had a heart filled with extreme gratitude, joy and happiness. Each and every one of my heart's truest desires on that page, written so many years ago, had been granted.

Seemingly impossible dreams have now come to pass. Our Father in heaven has given them all, and He, too, will bless you, dear readers, with your heart's truest desires. Map out your plan of action today, be specific, tuck it away, but refer to it often and say "thank you."

Unlimited possibilities, new discoveries and dreams coming true beyond our greatest imaginations await us. "Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart," states Psalm 37:4.

Great and miraculous things are in store. The best is yet to be.

Catherine Galasso is a free-lance columnist for the *Suburban Journals*. You may write to her at *Suburban Journals*, 1714 Deer Tracks Trail, St. Louis, 63131, or by e-mail at westnews@primary.net.

In the classroom

Lucas A. Geggus of Granite City has been cited for academic excellence at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, according to MacMurray Dean Jim Gouding.

He was posted to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 1998-99 academic year.

Mr. Geggus is a freshman majoring in criminal justice at MacMurray, a 152-year-old private liberal arts college educating students for a career and for life.

The son of Ted Geggus of Granite City, Geggus is a 1998 graduate of Granite City High School.

Franklin J. Pace has been awarded a scholarship for fall and spring 2000 to attend Southern Illinois University, which is valued at up to \$4,500 toward over four years.

Pace, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pace of Granite City and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kee of Tamms, has received the following honors, awards, and recognitions: listing in Who's Who Among American High School Students, Advanced American History Award, Spanish I and II Award, Advanced American Literature Award, Algebra I and II Award and member of the Math Olympiad. He was also named top student in Biology I and II.

Pace plans to study chemistry at SIU-Carbondale.

Hillary E. Ryan of Granite City has been named to the Dean's List at St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

She is the daughter of Richard and Diana Ryan.

Trip brochures available at office

Trip brochures for the 1999 overnight trips sponsored by the Granite City Park District are now available at the Wilson Park Office.

The brochure lists 10 trip destinations with a list of the highlights of each trip, along with the date of sign-up and cost of the trip.

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DEPRESSION

Clinical Research Associates of Edwardsville urgently needs volunteers age 18 and over with Bipolar disorder who are currently depressed or manic to participate in a research study comparing an investigational drug with lithium and placebo.

Symptoms include:

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Suitable volunteers will receive a study related medical and psychiatric evaluation and study drug from a psychiatrist free of charge. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for a study please call (618) 659-0292.

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Milestones

Chris Kamacho celebrated a birthday Feb. 28.

Nasim Haddad celebrated a birthday Feb. 28.

Bernita L. Harris celebrated a birthday Feb. 28.

Karen Tincal celebrated a birthday Feb. 28.

Joey Robertson Karis celebrated a birthday Feb. 28.

Paul Cooper celebrated a birthday Feb. 28.

David Bailey celebrated a birthday Feb. 28.

Jessica Suzanne Schubel celebrated a birthday Feb. 28.

Jay Hamm celebrated a birthday March 1.

Susan McGhee celebrated a birthday March 1.

John Margrave celebrated a birthday March 1.

Jerry and Kathy Tatum celebrated their wedding anniversary March 1.

Barbara Thomas celebrated a birthday March 2.

Amy Winn celebrated a birthday March 3.

Josephine Laub celebrated a birthday March 3.

Bob Cook celebrated a birthday March 4.

Chuck Stokes celebrated a birthday March 4.

Fran Page celebrated a birthday March 4.

Salon 53 will hold meeting in Alhambra

Madison County Salon 53, Eight and Forty, held its meeting on Feb. 16 at the Edwardsville American Legion.

Hostesses were Dorothy Hinson, Kate Buechele, Mary Ballentine and Norma Hillmer of Venice-Madison Post 307. A total of 16 members were present.

Nan Pnels, demi chapeau premier, conducted the business meeting. Zerna Hamron, LaConcierge, reported all wearing colors of red and white and 8/40 pins.

Judy Zimmerman, Children and Youth chair, reported receiving a thank-you from the National Jewish Center in Denver for the ditybags and items for children sent last month. Donations were accepted from partners for Camp Superkids, which is a camp for asthmatic children held in July.

Irene Schneek, Nurses Scholarship chair, collected \$8.25 for this fund.

Those attending from this area were Mary Ballentine, Kate Buechele, and Dorothy Hinson.

The next meeting will be held in Alhambra.

Matthew Awalt celebrated a birthday March 5.

Peggy Michelle "Shelby" Reynolds celebrated a birthday March 5.

Robert and Diana Barthelmy celebrated their wedding anniversary March 5.

Albert Wells celebrated a birthday March 6.

Brian Dodson celebrated a birthday March 6.

Tim Vandaveor celebrates a birthday today, March 7.

Carly Caldwell celebrates a birthday today, March 7.

Lloyd Riddle celebrates a birthday today, March 7.

Burk and Gail Bogovick celebrate their wedding anniversary March 7.

Treavor Schofield celebrates a birthday March 8.

Summer Nicole Smith celebrates a birthday March 8.

Beverly (Ayers) Carpenter celebrates a birthday March 9.

Krispy Kudelka celebrates a birthday March 9.

Karen Grider celebrates a birthday March 10.

Sheldon Murphy celebrates a birthday March 10.

Don Willson celebrates a birthday March 10.

Glenn Davis celebrates a birthday March 10.

Both Grooms celebrates a birthday March 10.

Dana Wallace celebrates a birthday March 10.

Alyssa Page celebrates a birthday March 12.

Don Mitecollton celebrates a birthday March 12.

Kariene L. Grubbs celebrates a birthday March 12.

Robert Roseworth celebrates a birthday March 13.

Kimberly Parks celebrates a birthday March 13.

John Gyamati celebrates a birthday March 13.

To submit an item to Milestones or delete an entry, send a postcard to "Milestones" Granite City Journal.

Coming Soon In Our Spring Magazine Sunday, March 28th

Kid's Koloring Kontest

Here's How To Play!

Age Limit Kindergarten thru 6th Grade

Just color any picture in the Spring Magazine & put your name, address & phone number in the space provided on the picture or pictures you wish to enter. Enter as often as you like. Winners will be announced in an upcoming issue.

K-2ND GRADE WINNER \$50.00

3RD - 4TH GRADE WINNER \$50.00

5TH - 6TH GRADE WINNER \$50.00

Mail your entries or drop them off at our office. All entries must be received by deadline, April 14th before 5 PM.

Mail to: KIDS KOLORING KONTST SUBURBAN JOURNALS 113 E. CLAY COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234

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News

K of C spelling bee held

The Granite City Knights of Columbus Chapter 21098 Spelling Bee took place Feb. 13 at the Knights of Columbus building. Ten students each from St. Elizabeth School and Holy Family School participated.

The winner was Katie Hatcher, who won first place and received a certificate, trophy and a \$100 bond. Second place was won by Nick Paskus of St. Elizabeth, who received a certificate, trophy and \$75 bond. Third place was won by Jason Ayran of St. Elizabeth School, who received a certificate, trophy and \$50 bond. They also received \$50 expense money.

These three winners will advance to the regional Spelling Bee in Collinsville March 20. There are five councils involved in this level of competition. Three winners will advance to the state Spelling Bee.

All participating students received small trophies and certificates. Chili, hot dogs, cake and soft drinks were served after the spelling bee.

Defining Soil by the experts at

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Where Beautiful Things Begin

Exactly what is soil? Well, as far as the word itself is concerned, it can be a strange one, as we found out when looking it up.

As a verb, it means to "make dirty," "besmirch," etc. A noun makes it a "country or region" . . . "earth or ground" . . . "the top layer of the earth's surface, suitable for planting." That's the one we were looking for.

The last definition most accurately describes soil as far as planting goes. And soil definitely isn't dirt. Dirt is what's on top of the door frame or clinging to your computer's monitor.

Soil, on the other hand, is a place for plant roots to grow. It's a warehouse and distribution center for plant nutrients and moisture.

This wondrous stuff called soil can be classified into three basic categories: Poor, good and ideal. Unfortunately the latter is something most of us haven't experienced, and will have to settle for good. Ideal soil is usually found in farmers' cornfields.

Poor soil is rocky and compacted or sandy and loose. It's sticky when wet and hard when dry. Too wet, too dry, too shallow. If that's familiar, we have good news. Soil doesn't have to stay the way it is; it can be improved, and rather easily.

To improve it, you should understand exactly what makes up soil. Minerals like limestone and granite make up 45% of soil by volume. Organic materials, living or once-living organisms (roots, fungi, earthworms, decaying leaves, etc.) make up 2% to 5% of soil by volume. Air and water, each roughly 20% to 30% of the volume, are held in pore spaces in the soil.

Various kinds of mineral particles and organic matter bind together, forming clumps of different sizes. Small pore spaces within these clumps hold

water. Large pore spaces between clumps hold air and provide drainage. This combination of clumps and pore spaces is soil.

Soils are classified according to their mineral content. These classifications are sand, silt and clay. The texture or "feel" of the soil refers to the size of the mineral particles of sand, silt and clay.

The smallest of these mineral particles is clay. Because they're so small, the pore spaces are also small. And since there are so many small pore spaces, clay is good at holding water in the soil; perhaps too good. Clay soil drains very slowly and holds little air, but it doesn't retain nutrients. It's sticky when wet, hard and clumpy or cloddy when dry. In the end it all means one thing: Poor planting conditions caused by poor pores.

Sand is the largest of the mineral particles. It's coarse, gritty and has fewer pore spaces. Therefore, sand holds air and drains well, but holding onto water and nutrients isn't its strong point.

Few people want sandy or clayey soil. Clayey? There really is such a word. Anyway, many soils are almost all clay or all sand. And gardening can be very difficult in either one.

Watch Wednesday's column and we'll tell you how to deal with varying soil conditions.

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Watch Wednesday's Journal
for more tips from the
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Community calendar

Church

GENERATION JESUS YOUTH GROUP, led by the youth minister, takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. every Sunday at Nameoki United Methodist Church, 1900 Pontoon Road.

JESUS EVERY THURSDAY (JETS), led by the music director, is for kids 3 to 11 years old. The group meets from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Thursdays. Music/bible study and fun at Niedringhaus United Methodist Church, 20th and Delmar. Mom's Bible study and share group meets at the same time as children. For more information, call 877-4555.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH Adventure Club, an after-school activity for grades 4-6, meets 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays at the church, 1000 Harris St. For more information, call 452-0273.

Community

MADISON COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday. For more information call Dan at 452-2336 or Diane at 452-1360.

EAGLES AUXILIARY 1126 BINGO takes place Sunday afternoons at Nameoki Bingo Center. Early bird game begins at 1 p.m., with 22 games, two color raffles, pull tabs, Speedballs, computer and bonuses.

FOOD/NUTRITION
MEALS OF LOVE, sponsored by Madison County Baptist Association. Free meals to anyone in need. Meets 4:30 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday at Second Baptist Church, 21st and Illinois streets, Granite City. Every one is welcome.

RESCUE MISSION food pantry is open from 9 a.m. to noon every Saturday at 1536 Fourth St., Madison. Sammie Turner is the secretary and Valonda Turner is the secretary and

Alfred Turner is the pastor.

TOPS 2363, 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at Anchorage Recreation Center, 2909 Edwards St. For more information call Bobbie at 452-0273.

FREE SENIOR CITIZEN EXERCISE CLASS, 9 a.m. every Thursday, Anchorage Recreation Center, 2909 Edwards St.

TOPS 2048 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), 6 p.m. every Monday, Second Baptist Church, 2100 Illinois Ave. in Granite City. Call 876-2124.

TOPS 1645, 7 p.m. every Monday, Anchorage Recreation Center, 2909 Edwards St., Granite City, 452-6102. Men and women welcome.

TOPS 1699 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) will meet at 8:45 p.m. every Tuesday at the Anchorage Recreation Center, 2909 Edwards St.; call 797-2724 for more information. Men and women are welcome to attend.

TOPS 1417, 6 p.m. every Tuesday, Calvary Lighthouse Church of God, 1205 W. Pontoon, Weigh-in at 5:30 p.m. Anyone age 7 or above with a weight problem is welcome. For more information call Ann at 452-6102.

MADISON COUNTY URBAN LEAGUE HEALTH CARE SERVICES offers the following each week at 500 Madison Ave. in Madison: Walk-in pregnancy testing and prescription refills, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays; Family planning services, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays; STD screening and treatment, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays; and family planning services, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 452-5304 for appointments or more information.

MADISON COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday. For more information call Dan at 452-2336 or Diane at 452-1360.

Organizations

MADISON COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday. For more information call Dan at 452-2336 or Diane at 452-1360.

876-1360.

EAGLES AUXILIARY 1126 BINGO every Sunday afternoon at Nameoki Bingo Center. Early bird game begins at 1 p.m., with 22 games, two color raffles, pull tabs, Speedballs, computers and bonuses.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP of Central Christian Church meets at 8:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month for breakfast and fellowship. For more information and/or location of meetings call 931-2292.

NAVY MOTHERS CLUBS OF AMERICA meet at 7:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month, at VFW Post 1300 in Granite City. Mothers, fathers, daughters, wives or sisters of former and present Navy, Marines, Coast Guard or Seabees are encouraged to join. For further information, call 931-2292 or 876-2209.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL meets from 7-10 p.m. the first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month at Shoney's, Highway 157 (44 Commerce Drive), Collinsville. Come join us for better communication and leadership skills. For more information, call 652-0026 or 344-2898.

WTE JOLLY QUILTERS meets from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Thursday at the Social Center, 908 Thorgate Drive in Mitchell.

GRANITE CHAPTER 650, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month, at the Masonic Temple, 20th Street and Cleveland Boulevard in Granite City.

GRANITE CITY COMMUNITY BAND rehearsals, 7:30 to 9 p.m. every Thursday, St. John United Church of Christ, 2901 Nameoki Road, Granite City, 831-0443.

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD RESTORATION SOCIETY, 8 p.m. second Friday of each month, Granite City.

876-7715.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, 4TH DEGREE meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, 4225 Old Alton Road, 877-4250.

GRANITE CITY KIWANIS CLUB meets at 7:30 a.m. every Tuesday at Shoney's.

Seniors

PONTON BEACH SENIOR CITIZENS meet at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at 3910 Highway 111, Pontoon Beach.

PONTON BEACH SENIOR CITIZENS BINGO, 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday, 3910 Highway 111, Pontoon Beach.

EAGLE PARK ACRE SENIORS OF MADISON meet from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday at 100 Hill St. (near), Eagle Park Acres, Madison.

FREE SENIOR CITIZEN EXERCISE CLASS meets at 9 a.m. every Thursday, Anchorage Recreation Center, 2909 Edwards.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PINOCCHIO CLUB for seniors 55 and over meets at 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Harold Brown Building, Franklin Avenue and Pontoon Road. Call 877-0350 for more information.

Support Groups
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DIVORCED AND SEPARATED CATHOLICS

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP, 3 to 4:30 p.m., third Sunday of each month, at Central Christian Church, 2300 Johnson Road, Granite City. The group, men only, will meet in the church's Terrace Room, enter through the Fellowship Hall door on the east side of the building. There is no charge. For more information, call 655-5438.

LUPUS RHEUMATOIDISM SUPPORT GROUP, sub-chapter of Illinois Lupus Foundation, 7:30 p.m., third Tuesday of each month, Memorial Hospital auditorium, Belleville, 233-7750, extension 5860.

PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN, St. Louis Chapter, 8 to 10 p.m., the third Tuesday of each month at the American Cancer Society Building, 4201 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis. For more information call 452-2149 or (314) 391-2230.

SPOUSE SUPPORT GROUP, sponsored by Nameoki United Methodist Church, meets the third Tuesday of each month. For meeting time and place, call the church at 877-1508.

THE CHURCH OUTREACH INC. meets 7 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday night at True Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 1541 E. Main, Granite City. The church is an outreach program designed to support its community's struggle with drug and crime. All meetings are confidential. For more information, call 877-TRUE.

THE COHEARTS (Commitment of Healing Emotions and Recovery Through Support) Survivors of Suicide Support Team is open for anyone who has lost a friend or loved one due to suicide. The group keeps all information confidential and allows you to express your thoughts and feelings openly. Meetings are at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Behavioral Health Alternatives Inc., 337 E. Ferguson in Wood River. For more information call 251-4073.

PULMONARY SUPPORT GROUP, for persons with diagnosed lung condition, 11 a.m. to noon every Wednesday in 4-Doctors Seminar Room, Elizabeth Medical Center, 708-3019.

ALANON, 9:30 a.m. every Monday, 2116 Edison (side door) in Granite City, 452-4040.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. every Wednesday, 2116 Club, 2116 Edison, Granite City, (800) 307-6600.

ALANON ADULT CHILDREN meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, 2100 Madison Ave., in the Kettler Center Conference Room. Call 452-2429 for more information.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 8 p.m. every Wednesday, St. Elizabeth School's Noah's Ark Day Care, Pontoon Road, Granite City. The meetings are closed except for the last Wednesday of the month.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. every Thursday, noon and 8 p.m. every Friday at 2116 Edison, Granite City, (800) 307-6600.

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DARE officer gets top state police award

Continued from Page 1A

"That was a very special day for me," McDaniel said. "I was pleased to work for a program that has taught or youth how to overcome obstacles that they would encounter. I wouldn't have imagined that I would be honored by the governor of Illinois for my work."

She was promoted to a special investigation officer in December, but still has affiliations with the DARE program.

McDaniel said she became interested in law enforcement in 1983 and 1984 while working as an auxiliary police officer in Granite City, where she has lived for the last 25 years. She applied for a job with the Illinois State Police in 1984 and, after a year-long training program, she became an officer in 1985.

DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a 16-week course in which uniformed police officers teach fifth- and sixth-grade students classes on peer pressure, self-assertiveness, stress control, violence prevention, media influences and lesson alternatives.

The program has been implemented so that students can use information they have learned in the classroom to overcome negative influences they may encounter in school or in their neighborhoods.

After the course, students receive a DARE certificate as part of a formal graduation.

McDaniel became affiliated with the program in 1986 as an officer with the Illinois State Police. After she received her DARE training certification in Los Angeles, she spent 12 years as a child safety officer. She traveled to many Illinois communities, including Highland, Alton, Collinsville and Washington Park, to teach the courses.

McDaniel said that, for the 12 years she worked as a DARE officer, she projected herself as a role model. She said she told the children that she, too, had faced peer pressure as a youngster and had to say no to alcohol and

drugs. "I think a majority of kids in grade school or high school eventually come into contact with negative influences, either directly or indirectly," McDaniel said. "I did. DARE addresses those issues, showing the kids the right way

to handle difficult situations. Hopefully, when those situations arose, they thought of me and what I stood for." McDaniel said at end of each course or graduation, she had an inspirational message for her students: "To be a star, you must shine

your own light, follow your own path and not worry about the darkness, for that is when the stars shine the brightest." "Each time I gave my message, I could see the kids exude with confidence," she said. "I knew then that I had succeeded."

Leprechaun Dance set for Friday

The Granite City Park District will sponsor its annual St. Patrick's Day Leprechaun Dance from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Harold Brown Recreation Center, located at the intersection of Franklin and Amos. Senior citizens are invited to bring a friend or two to the dance. Everyone should wear something green. Soda and popcorn will be provided and prizes will be awarded throughout the evening.

There is no admission charge for the event.

For information call the Wilson Park office, 877-3059.

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Plan softens penalties for bad check writers

Continued from Page 1A

Haine said the program carries no cost to the county taxpayers.

"People who write bad checks will pay for the program. County taxpayers will not pay a cent," Haine said.

The program will be funded by the fees collected from offenders, he said. Kristy Edmiston, Director of Corporate Relations for American Corrective Counseling Services, a California-based company overseas the program.

"Procrastination is the problem. They write the check and then don't get around to depositing the money to cover it," she said.

"Licensed counselors come in to facilitate the class, and we have case workers that work with each offender," Edmiston said. "Classes are held at a local college or rented conference room, easily accessible to the community."

AACS started similar programs in California and Nevada about 12 years ago, Edmiston said. "We have just recently expanded, and now cover about 25 jurisdictions across the country," she said.

The company began setting up the program for Madison County around Christmas of last year, she said. They also run similar programs in St. Clair, Champaign and Effingham counties.

"This company came forward and met with me and Bob Haida (St. Clair County State's Attorney)," Haine said. "It widens the scope of what we've been doing," he said.

"It's available to all businesses (in the two counties)."

"The purpose of our office in many of these situations like gambling, bad checks, and minor drug offenses is not to criminalize the offender, but to educate, through force of law, in order to encourage them to obey the law," Haine said.

"This program does that, because people are called to account," he said.

"This gives them the opportunity to avoid the (criminal) system, and, hopefully, we'll never see them again. We'll see them as productive citizens."

Soccer news Ruben Mendoza joins Elks select program

Page 4B

Sports

sports on-line, www.yourjournal.com

Athlete of the Week John Thomas leads Gibault's playoff run

Page 2B

Grizzly thoughts

New pro team will have plenty of impact on area

The winter thaw leads my thoughts to baseball, including those related to the Gateway Grizzlies, the Class A independent league professional team scheduled to be playing in the year 2000.

Surely, I deserve a T-shirt or cap after correctly guessing the first letter of the team's nickname. My choice was "Goodies," which fell well behind the winning name of "Grizzlies."

Bear in mind (sorry about that) how much "Goodies" still applies

because I've heard nothing but positives related to lead investor Rich Sauter's plans calling for baseball diamonds and soccer fields being built adjacent to the proposed \$4.5 million stadium.

While city officials from Fairview Heights and O'Fallon continue to work on the Grizzlies toward developing the St. Ellen Mine site just off Route 50, I know of no one better to refer to than Sauter when it comes to the economic impact of the venture.

You see, when Sauter earned his master's degree from St. Mary's University in Texas in the 1960s, his thesis was on the economic impact of the World Series on the city of St. Louis.

Early projections are that the new team and stadium and accompanying fields will bring an estimated \$6 million annually to area hotels, restaurants and stores.

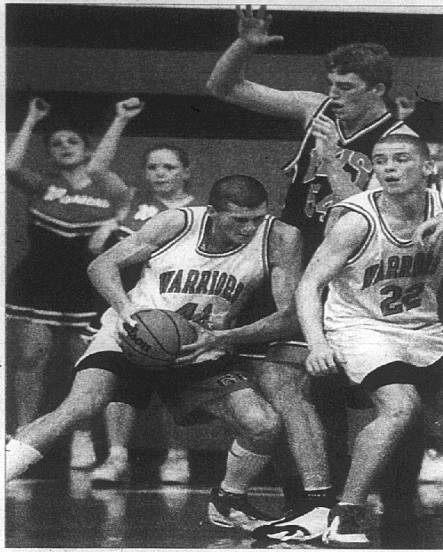
Extra innings

Remember when Mark McGwire nearly missed first base after hitting his 62nd home run last season in St. Louis? McGwire, with the assistance of the first base coach, made sure he touched the bag, but that action led to a question: What if McGwire tripped over the bag and become unable to circle the bases?

Thanks to reader Ed Lange of Belleville, whose library includes a copy of The Sporting News book of "Knotty Problems," I am able to refer to a listing under "Batter incapacitated after hitting homer."

Rule 5.10c-1 allows the offensive team to use a substitute and explains: "Since the ball is dead when it leaves the park, the team at bat is permitted to put in a substitute runner to complete circling the bases for the injured player."

See ROUSTIO, Page 2B



Tim Stephenson photo

Granite City's Chris Tindall (41) scored 7 points in the Warriors' loss to East St. Louis on Friday.

Granite City shows progress

Warriors posted 13-14 mark after just 3 wins in 1997-98

By Rick Broome
Staff writer

Granite City lost the final game of its season 63-35 to Jerseyville in the Class AA regional playoffs a couple of weeks ago.

GIRLS BASKETBALL The Warriors closed the season at 13-14 overall, 4-8 in the Southwestern Conference.

Finishing with back-to-back losses to East St. Louis and Jerseyville may not have been the best way to go out, but the Warriors were a revitalized team this year after a 3-20 season in 1997-98.

"Overall, I think it was a fairly successful season, compared to where we were last year," Granite City coach John Moad said. "We have to be pleased with the way we turned it around. We let some games get away this year, but on the other hand we beat some teams that we probably shouldn't have. We beat Belleville West twice. We probably shouldn't have beaten Wood River in that game, when we hit the last-second

shot, the 3-pointer at the buzzer. But there were some games that we did let slip away. The Belleville East game at home, where we lost by one. But I think it evened itself out. We finished about as well as I think we could have."

No one was more important to this collective resuscitation effort than Debra Aaron. The senior center consistently was the high scorer for the Warriors and her strong defensive presence in the paint kept the opponents' post players in check.

"She started playing her sophomore year; she didn't play as a freshman," Moad said. "She had only played 10 or 15 games of organized basketball going into her sophomore year and she has just improved every year in leaps and bounds. If she can keep improving, she is going to have a pretty successful college career. I believe she is going to be going to Lewis & Clark (Community College). Their coach called me again the other night and definitely wants her."

The Warriors also lose starting point guard Jan.

Granite City falls to East St. Louis

Warriors close season with 13-16 record

By Rick Broome
Staff writer

Granite City kept East St. Louis in its sights for three quarters, but the Warriors were helpless to stop the Flyers from zooming away in the fourth quarter.

BOYS BASKETBALL The Flyers beat the Warriors 71-52, the third such time East St. Louis beat Granite City this season. But Granite City was in it in a fast-paced first half, trailing by just seven at the half. We didn't defend the outside shot that well and Granite City shoots the ball very well from outside," Flyers coach Bennie Lewis said. "I thought we could have done a little better than we did with that."

Philip Gilbert led the Flyers with 29 points, including four 3-pointers. George Mumphard and Darryl Hawkins added 13 each and Darius Miles had 12, most of them in the paint. "Gilbert has been working hard for us," Lewis said. "He's been working on his shot and slashing to the basket. He's just been working hard and it really paid off for him tonight."

Granite City finished the season at 13-16 with the loss.

"The way we had to play, we can't give them a big lead," Granite City coach John VanBuskirk said. "And then when we have to

play fast, that's playing East St. Louis basketball. We can't beat them playing that style of basketball. We had to have an extremely good night from everybody. Everybody gave 100 percent and we can't ask for more than that. Zack (May) shot the ball extremely well. They went box-and-one on him in the second half. That's why he didn't make as many baskets, because they had a man all over him. That was just a tough ballgame. They got to play their style and we are at a big disadvantage when they can play that way."

Matt Pastorius led Granite City with 14 points. Point guard May punched in 12 for the Warriors.

"Anyone who plays East has to slow it down," VanBuskirk said. "You can't get into a running game with them. The way that game went, as many points as we were behind in the fourth quarter, we had to hurry a little. You saw the breakdowns that we had. That was them at their best and that was us playing their style. We didn't have a choice. The kids knew that they had to go all-out and they went all-out. They did their very best and I'm very proud of them."

The Flyers play the winner of Friday's game between Belleville West and Chatham Glenwood. The sectional semifinal is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Warriors on the right track

Bowling teams complete first season in SIHSBC

By Rick Broome
Staff writer

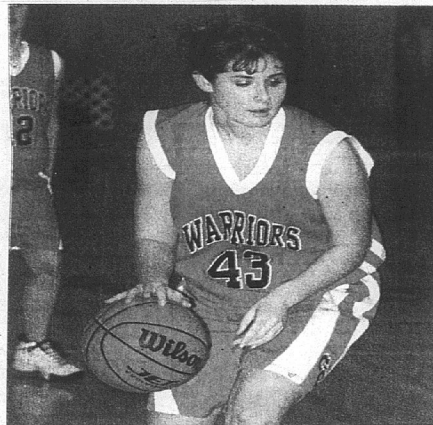
Granite City may be on course to start another prep sports juggernaut.

PREP BOWLING The school famous for excellence in soccer and wrestling may be on the path to forming a successful program for boys and girls bowling.

The Warriors fielded their first teams for bowling in the Southern Illinois High School Bowling Conference.

The Granite City boys finished 8-4 overall and 6-4 in the Southwestern Conference. The Warriors girls finished 6-6 overall and 6-4 in the conference.

The Warriors boys team



Tim Stephenson photo

Debra Aaron led the Granite City girls basketball team in scoring this season.

Shanafelt, who ran the offense and the Warriors' tough full-court press.

"With Jan, we are definitely going to miss her," Moad said. "Just her energy on the floor, she is just a fiery girl. She gets everybody up for the games. She was definitely our vocal leader. She would step up and say something when we needed it. You could tell by her actions on the court that

she was the leader for us. That's going to be tough to replace."

The Warriors will return three starters and several junior varsity players who saw a lot of time on the varsity hardwood.

"We have some experience coming back, with (Jess)

See WARRIORS, Page 4B

See BOWLING, Page 4B



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Sports

Thomas sparks Gibault's postseason run

Hawks senior center brings a high-scoring element to the low post

By Karen Vartanian
Staff writer

Gibault High post player John Thomas garners very high marks from Hawks coach Dennis Rueter.

"John's as good a low post scorer and scorer in general as we've ever had here," said Rueter, whose Gibault program has included Division players such as Josh Toal (University of Idaho) and Chris Braun (a 6-foot-10 redshirt freshman at Saint Louis University).

A 6-foot-6 senior, Thomas was averaging 18.8 points, 9.4 rebounds and 1.93 blocks per game heading into Gibault's showdown Friday with Sesser-Valer in the IHSA Class A Sparta Sectional.

Thomas is shooting a whopping 77.2 percent from the floor.

"He's had a great year," Rueter said. "He's as good of an offensive post player as we've ever had. He puts the ball in the basket down low. He's very strong. He's got pretty good moves down there. He's just a beast down on the marker. He's been rebounding better the second half of the year."

Thomas has enjoyed several standout games this season. He scored a team-best 31 points in the Hawks' 91-79 demolition of Lebanon in the Freeburg-Columbia Holiday Tournament championship on Dec. 30.

Another highlight was a

29-point, 15-rebound performance in Gibault's 79-51 pounding of Trico on Feb. 19.

Most recently, Thomas notched a career-high 38 points in the Hawks' 81-56 decision against Sparta at the IHSA Class A Marissa Regional semifinals on Feb. 24.

"He's just a big strong kid," Rueter said. "He's so strong. He's so strong and he runs well for a big kid. He's got good touch around the basket."

Rueter said Thomas, who was Gibault's No. 2 inside option behind Braun last year, has made typical progressions from his junior to senior campaigns.

Thomas was a key contributor on the 1997-98 Hawks squad, which was 25-6 and advanced to the IHSA

Class A Benton Sectional final.

"People said 'Wow, he's a lot better,'" Rueter said. "He just didn't get a chance to get down on the marker with Chris there last year. He's made the normal junior to senior progress. He's got a little more versatility in his post moves. He gets to the basket a little bit better. He'll shoot it from eight or 10 now more if he has to. Before he just always took the thing and laid it in."

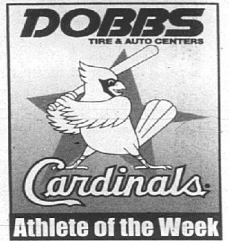
"Obviously, he still lays in plenty of times," Rueter said. "Right now, Thomas' college future remains open."

He has been recruited by some junior college and NAIA schools — including McKendree — as well as NCAA Division III and

Division II schools. As of yet, Thomas has not committed to a school.

Regardless, Thomas will have to make the usual transitions from high school to collegiate basketball.

"He's going to be facing somebody that's as big and strong as he is, so he's going to have to add to his post moves I'm sure," Rueter said. "He's going to have to guard better. Especially, he's going to have to be able to guard people on the perimeter more so than what he's had to do so far. He runs well but he's going to have to run all the time now. At that level, they expect you to run and really get up and down the floor."



"His intensity level's going to have to pick up, which every high school kid that goes to college has to pretty much do that."

Cahokia left out in tiebreaker format

Despite 2-1 mark, Comanches can't crack quarterfinal field

By Chris Waldvogel
Staff writer

Cahokia ended a frustrating season in the Mississippi Valley Club Hockey Association by beating the Illinois Warriors and Collinsville in the playoffs, but that only led to more frustration.

"It's hard to go out like we did," Cahokia coach Robert Whitesell said. "The Board of Directors had first decided that for a tie-breaker, teams would play head to head. But then they said that would only be good if two teams tied. Then they decided to use goal differential."

Four teams from each division advanced into the MVCHA quarterfinals after the first round, which consisted of three games in pool play.

In the MVCHA Class AA Southern Division, O'Fallon went 3-0. Althoff, Collinsville, Belleville West and Cahokia all finished the first round tied with a 2-1 record.

However, the Comanches posted a minus-2 goal differential because they scored nine goals but allowed 11. Althoff led the teams with a plus-5, while West

and Althoff posted a plus-1.

"Our differential was the lowest of the four tied teams, which put us out," Whitesell said. "A team that we beat gets to move on. We felt that wasn't too fair."

Two teams that Cahokia beat moved on actually. The Warriors, based in Granite City and the defending MVCHA champion, topped the Northern Division's pool play but was ousted in the quarterfinals by Edwardsville.

The Comanches beat the Kahoks 2-1 in the final game of pool play. The Kahoks entered the game against Cahokia with a 2-0 record and a plus-2 goal differential after narrow victories against Belleville West and Edwardsville. The Comanches beat Granite City 3-2 in overtime but lost 8-4 to O'Fallon for a minus-3 differential.

A three-goal victory for the Comanches would have sent them past Collinsville. "We played very well in the playoffs," said Whitesell, who will not return as coach next year. "I would put my forwards and defense against anyone in the league. The biggest problem was goalkeeping."

Cahokia ended up with the most difficult postseason schedule because it finished last in the Southern Division at 6-11-5. In addition to facing the Warriors,

who won the Northern Division regular season title this year, the Comanches also had to play O'Fallon, which coasted to the Southern Division title.

Whitesell thinks Cahokia can be competitive next year.

"Depending on who comes out next year, they should do well. They'll be competitive," he said.

However, Cahokia will lose Mike Sharp to graduation.

Sharp finished 10th in the MVCHA Class AA scoring race with 9 goals and 17 assists.

"Mike had a good year and provided some much-needed leadership," said Whitesell, who thinks depth between the pipes will make the biggest difference between this year and next year.

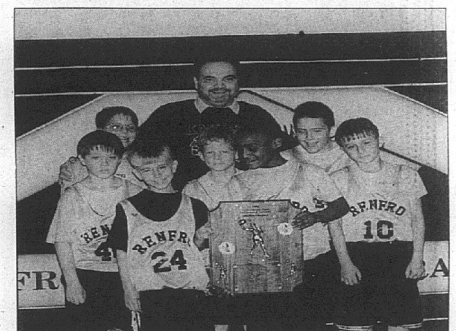
"We had an eighth-grader, Gary Craig, who played some junior varsity games (in goal)," Whitesell said. "He should give Eric Kharibian some competition and whenever you have competition, that always makes the position better."

Dave Shreve heads the list of possible returnees who will solidify next year's squad. The defenseman tallied 9 goals and seven assists in 22 games.

Youth basketball



The Webster School's Mrs. Esker's red team won the fifth-grade basketball tournament for Collinsville Unit 10. The Webster School squad defeated Renfro Elementary School's Fritzsche team 24-23 in the championship game. The event took place in February with games at Webster and Renfro schools. Members of the Webster School championship team (picture above) are Tyler Ash, Alex Dow, Patrick Huber, Chris Lutes, Bradley Macdonald, Corey Mattea, Michael McBride, Kurtis Simpson and Landon Zirkelbach. The team was coached by Charles Dow.



The Renfro Elementary School's Fritzsche team finished second in the Collinsville Unit 10 fifth-grade basketball tournament, bowing to Webster in the title game. Members of the team, from left, Damian Willoughby, Bryce Hewlett, Jason Brown, Tommy Ashton, Lamontiric Wayne, Brett Owens and Jeff Cox. In back is coach John Burris.

MVCHA playoffs

Mississippi Valley Club Hockey Association Class AA Regular Season Final Northern Division	
Team.....	W-L-T
Illinois (Granite City).....	13-6-3
Bethalto Civic Memorial.....	10-8-4
Alton.....	10-8-4
Edwardsville.....	10-8-4
Alton Marquette.....	8-10-4
Roxana.....	0-20-2
South Division	
Team.....	W-L-T
O'Fallon.....	17-3-2
Althoff.....	11-8-3
Collinsville.....	10-10-2
Belleville West.....	10-10-2
Belleville East.....	8-11-3
Cahokia.....	6-11-5
Playoffs	
Northern Division	
Team.....	W-L-T
Illinois (Granite City).....	2-1
Bethalto Civic Memorial.....	2-1
Edwardsville.....	2-1
Alton.....	1-2
Alton Marquette.....	0-3
Roxana.....	0-3
South Division	
Team.....	W-L-T
O'Fallon.....	3-0

Alton 4, Roxana 2	
Cahokia 2, Collinsville 1.	
Quarterfinal 1: O'Fallon 5, Belleville West 2.	
Quarterfinal 2: Edwardsville 5, Illinois Warriors 1.	
Quarterfinal 3: Althoff 2, Collinsville 1.	
Quarterfinal 4: Bethalto Civic Memorial 3, Alton 1.	
Semifinal 1 (North): Civic Memorial 4, Edwardsville 3.	
Semifinal 2 (South): O'Fallon vs. Althoff, 7 p.m. March 5 at U.S. Ice Sports Complex.	
Championship, 6 p.m. March 7 at East Alton.	
Class A Regular Season Final East Division	
Team.....	W-L-T
Freeburg.....	19-0-2
Waterloo.....	18-0-2
Triad.....	9-3-4
Mascoutah.....	9-9-3
West Division	
Team.....	W-L-T
Plaza Southwestern.....	8-9-4
Wood River.....	4-11-6
Jerseyville.....	6-14-1
Highland.....	1-20-0
Playoffs East Division	

Roustio writes a book on basketball memories

Continued from Page 1B

Overtime

Longtime Illinois prep boys basketball coach Mel Roustio has written a book entitled "Courtside Memories."

The 32-page book, which features everything from comebacks to controversies to oddities, is available for \$12.57, including shipping and handling, from Creative Ideas, Inc., P.O. Box 998, Jacksonville, Ill., 62651-0998.

A native of East St. Louis, Roustio coached at Jacksonville for 21 years, has coached 34 years overall, and currently is guiding Stephen Decatur. Roustio, 59, has more than 500 basketball coaching victories. His book does not

focus on himself but rather on tidbits like those that related to the rivalry when Hall of Fame coaches Vergil Fletcher (Collinsville) and Louis "Pick" Dehner (East St. Louis) squared off.

Rim shot

When it comes to the IHSA Class AA boys' postseason, keep an eye on Lincoln Park of Chicago. That school is realizing success this season due to the addition of two 6-foot-7 seniors — foreign exchange students who are Africans but were raised in Paris.

Each speaks five languages and has relatives in Chicago, where they played in summer leagues after deciding to transfer.

North junior High team closes with nine wins in last 16 games

By Brian Bretsch
Staff writer

After starting the season with a 1-8 start, the North Junior High seventh-grade boys basketball team re-

bounded to win nine of its next 16 games.

The Thunderbirds finished the campaign with a 10-15 mark and 7-9 in conference play.

The Thunderbird highlights included:

- A 47-43 overtime victory against Coolidge. Three players scored in double figures: Mike Benson (18), Kyle Embick (12) and James Flynn (10, including two 3-pointers).

- The T-birds traveled to Quincy for a pair of games and beat a team from Camp Point Central. Demarco

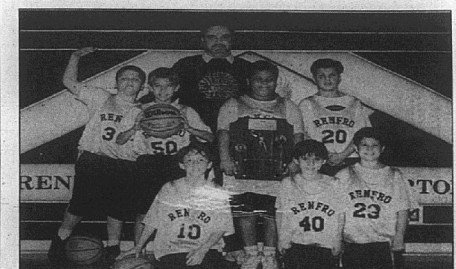
Daniels led North Junior High to victory with an outstanding defensive performance.

North won its last game of the year in double overtime, 49-48, against a team from Memphis, Tenn. Embick led the way with 22 points.

Embick led the team in scoring with a 6.8 point average.

Benn averaged 6.7 points per game, while Darian Patterson netted an average of 4.4 points per contest and Flynn 4.1. Benson also won the "Mr. Hustle Award," voted by the players.

The Thunderbirds team included Daniels, Benson, Embick, Flynn, Patterson, Nick Tedrick, Craig Thomas, Dan Bakus, Brandon Dill, Andy Huck, Brandon Dougherty and Ryan Toon.



The Renfro Elementary School's Eska team finished third in the Collinsville Unit 10 fifth-grade basketball tournament in February. The team beat a team from Webster 12-10 in the third-place game. Members of the team, from left, Justin Graebe, Tyler Hurtado, Corey Howard; in back, Blake Parker, Danny Little, coach John Burris, Chad Moore and Kyle Bowen. Not pictured is Nick Zimmer.

Mendoza hired as coordinator for Elks program

Special to the Journal

The Granite City Elks Youth Athletics Committee announced the hiring of Ruben Mendoza to coordinate the activities of the Select Soccer program.

Mendoza is known throughout the soccer community as one of the founding fathers of soccer in Granite City. He brings with him impressive credentials, including three-time U.S. Olympic soccer player, two-time World Cup soccer player and a member of the St. Louis Soccer Hall

Granite City soccer legend outlines his goals for select organization

of Fame. Mendoza played with the fabled St. Louis Kutis soccer club. He played with them for all eight of their national championships in the mid 50's. He is a "B" licensed coach. Mendoza has coached a number of local athletes who have gone on to very successful college and professional careers, including Shawn Petroski (Bundesliga in Germany), Keith Gehling (professional indoor and outdoor leagues), Steve Tritschuh (professional indoor and outdoor leagues and World Cup

player) and David Fernandez. Mendoza's responsibility primarily will be to work with the Elks coaches to ensure that proper techniques are being taught. One of his goals is to have all of the coaches going in the same direction. Another short-term goal is to get everyone in the club — the coaches, players and parents — to start thinking positively about the organization and the goals they are trying to achieve.

"The Elks have a great organization here," Mendoza said. "I

intend to add to the quality of what they have already accomplished."

The Elks select program has been in existence for over 15 years. The organization has always targeted the development of local residents and does not recruit out-of-town players. There are currently 14 Elks teams and 99 percent of those players are Granite City area residents.

The intent of the program is to prepare the local talent with the skills necessary to play at the high school level, while at the same time

keeping the cost of playing at the select level at a reasonable price. The Elks organization currently charges \$50 per year.

It is also Mendoza's goal to keep the local talent playing together as a team through their developing years, which in turn builds a strong base for the high school program. He also plans to bring in top talent to help run clinics and training for all of the Elks teams.

"I am very excited about this program and I feel that I can make a difference," Mendoza said. "I just need some time and some patience from our teams right now."

Tigers dominate Collinsville in regional final

By Brian Bretsch
Staff writer

Edwardsville jumped to an early lead and never let down Friday night in the IHSA Class AA regional championship game. The end result was a convincing 66-45 victory against Collinsville on Friday night at Gym A in Edwardsville.

The Tigers (22-5) will face Belleville East (18-9) in the second game of the Collinsville Sectional semifinal 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Collinsville ended its season with a 15-11 mark.

"I thought that we did a very good job of pressing," Edwardsville coach Mike Waldo said. "I thought we were

Edwardsville advances to play Belleville East on Wednesday

able to pressure well. I think we did a good job of not fouling because a big part of Collinsville's game this year has been making free throws and getting to the basket to get fouled.

"We were able to disrupt the game somewhat, which I thought was important because Collinsville is very good in the quarter-court when they get to run their offense. They are well coached and well disciplined."

After the Kahoks shot 72 percent from the field in their opening round victory Wednesday against Civic Memorial, Collinsville could not buy a basket early Friday night. To make matters worse, the Tigers' Matt

Turner blanketed Kahoks sharp-shooting sophomore Terry Tessary and limited him to just three attempts in the first half. Meanwhile, Edwardsville's 6-foot-10 Dan Lytle, with the help of a committee of others, double-teamed Collinsville's 6-5 Shaun Moore throughout the contest. Moore, playing in last game for the Kahoks, scored just 6 points.

"I told them before the game that game was going to come down who was the most aggressive, who was the aggressor and who wanted it the most," Bone said. "They just came and attacked us. Going into the game, I really thought it was one of those games that you have to keep your kids on an even keel and you

don't try to pump them up any more than what they are. I really thought for a game like this they would really be bouncing off the wall but we were kind of flat."

Tessary and Moore were limited to a combined two points in the first half. Tessary had just three shots; Moore took two.

At the other end, Lytle was on a tear. He scored 13 of his game-high 23 points in the opening half as he helped the Tigers build a 15-point halftime lead (31-16).

Turner and Cory Wilson traded 3-pointers to start the third quarter, but Edwardsville went on a 6-0 run to

open a 38-19 lead.

Tessary finally scored his first bucket with 10:00 remaining in the third quarter, but it was already too late. Tessary finished with a team-high 12 points.

"Defensively we were not very good tonight," Bone said. "We just didn't stop anything all night long."

Edwardsville 66, Collinsville 45
Collinsville: 8 10 19 19 — 45
Edwardsville: 18 13 17 18 — 54
Collinsville: Terry Tessary 12 (2-pointers), Chris Shaffer 9, Cory Wilson 7, Shaun Moore 6, Ray Price 6, Steve Dougherty 3, T.J. Flynn 2, FG-11 (5 3-pointers), FT-8/13.

Edwardsville: Dan Lytle 23, Matt Turner 19, Matt Fisch 4, Doug Shapiro 9, Aaron Cowan 1, Travis Evans 6, John Wiemers 2, Matt Altara 2, FG-19 (5 3-pointers), FT-13/20.

Belleville East avoids upset in regional final vs. Alton

By Steve Porter
Staff writer

Alton's final game here Friday was typical of its roller-coaster season. The Redbirds took another wild ride, then stopped abruptly.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Belleville East defeated them 80-65 to claim an IHSA Class

AA regional championship and advance to the semifinals of the Collinsville Sectional Complex.

While Alton bowed out at 14-13, Belleville East (18-6) will meet Edwardsville at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville's Vandalia Center.

"It seemed like we'd always have one bad stretch here and

there this season," Alton coach Mike Brey said. "And this game was like that. We made a nice comeback after twice getting down by 11 points, but then we couldn't get our shots to fall in the third quarter."

The Redbirds, who fell behind 11-0 and 21-10, stormed back to take a 25-23 lead on Jamon Wheeler's 3-pointer midway through the second quarter. Wheeler's trey capped a 15-2 spurt.

East, however, refused to buckle. The Lancers regained

the lead, surged in front 40-34 by halftime and never looked back. They extended their advantage to as much as 18 points in defeating Alton for the third time this season. The Redbirds made only 1 of 11 shots in a lachrymose eighth-point third quarter.

"We couldn't get our shots to go down," Alton junior forward Patrick Mays said. "I thought we had some good ones, but they wouldn't go in." Teammate Demarco Stuppi said he was disappointed with

the flat finish.

"I don't know what to say. We should have won it and we didn't do it," he said.

Belleville East coach Doug McCrary said he was elated the No. 2-seeded Lancers avoided an upset and will get an opportunity for a third game with Edwardsville.

"It was a different kind of game. It seemed like everything was feast or famine with either a layup or turnover," McCrary said.

While the Redbirds kept do-it-all Belleville East junior Stetson Hairston in check early, they couldn't corral 6-5 junior Mike Bujnak. The Lancers center wound up making all nine of his shots in scoring a game-high 18 points. Tony Patterson (15 points),

Justin Mason (13 points) and reserve Mark Mueller (10 points) added to the cause. Hairston finished the game with 13 points, 11 in the fourth quarter.

"Bujnak has really come on the last four games or so against good competition," McCrary said. "He has played well against (Edwardsville's) Dan Lytle. (East St. Louis) Darius Miles and he looked good tonight. I'm very proud of him."

East, successfully pounding the ball in the low post, made 31 of 43 shots, or 72 percent. The Lancers hit 17 of 21 first-half shots. Charles Banks, a 6-4 senior forward, led Alton with 16 points.

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Laura

Sports

Warriors show improvement

Continued from Page 1B

Wallace and Della (Moore) and Tabby (Duff). I think those three are going to play big roles for us. If Erika Todd comes back, she is going to help us. Hopefully some of these junior varsity players will step up for us.

"Della started playing well toward the end of the season. Her shots started falling. She always plays well defensively for us, but when she was able to step up and start producing offensively for us, she found herself playing a lot of minutes, and that happened at the end of the season.

"The youth coming up is outstanding. Chris Withers played some good minutes for us as a sophomore. Erin Tyler was just a freshman, Bogovich shooting like this, Wallace coming back — offensively, I think we are going to be all right.

"Defensively, we are going to struggle against big teams. We need our big girls to get better. Sarah Luehmann has some work to do. Megan Coghlin is a freshman, she is our only real big girl in our program. We look for her to possibly step up next year and play some good minutes for us, but we've got to get her to that

"I think that next year they are going to improve the record even more. I think that the 3-20 record is all behind us now completely and every year we are going to keep improving."

Debra Aaron
Granite City senior

point. She's 6 foot as a freshman and that doesn't come along very often.

"We are going to have a real hard time replacing Debra Aaron in the middle. We don't have that size and that aggressiveness anywhere. We'll have to go with some young ones, some sophomores. Hopefully they can step in and do the job for us."

Aaron has faith in her successors. "They'll all step up really well," she said. "I think that next year they are going to improve the record even more. I think that the 3-20 record is all behind us now completely and every year we are going to keep improving."

Shanafelt echoed her optimism.

"To be replaced by Katie (Ronk) and Erika (Todd), and to still have Jess (Wallace) and Della (Moore) and Tabby (Duff) out there, they should be fine," Shanafelt said. "They've been getting a lot of playing time anyway."

"We just have to get ready for next season," junior guard Tonya Biggs said. "There will be a lot more seniors on the team next year. The seniors this year put a lot of effort into the team and we are really proud of them. These seniors made us look up to them and hopefully we can be role models next year."

But the construction of the program is not complete. Moad wants to build a launching pad from this season.

"We have to get to the point where our rebuilding or down seasons are right at .500," Moad said. "I don't think we are there yet. As a coaching staff, we are not yet where we want to be. But I think we can look at this season as a success. We had a pretty successful season considering where the program has been at. The job is to keep it here, to keep it at this level where we are respectable every night out, every season we expect to be at .500 or above. Where we don't have to worry about those 3-20 seasons anymore, because nobody likes that. It's not a lot of fun for anybody."

Bowling program starts off on right foot

Continued from Page 1B

was led by Travis Papp. The sophomore had a number of big games and series for Granite City this year, but perhaps none was more influential than the 7-0 series against Edwardsville in the regular-season finale. With Papp's input, the Warriors took out the Tigers 25-11 to complete its hand of victories against every conference team.

"I would say first of all, that Travis had a fantastic season," Granite City coach Bill Puhse said. "To top it all off, he is starting to grow as a team player and mature as a bowler. He has great things ahead of him in our conference."

"Travis really came through for us. It seems like Travis really thrives on pressure and the idea of beating the only team we hadn't beaten was a big goal. It allowed him to focus on his game. He really responds under pressure and that's a good sign for our anchor man to be like that."

Papp carried his excellence

"They far exceeded my expectations as a first-year player."

Bill Puhse
Granite City coach
on the girls team

into the playoffs, helping the Warriors finish 16th out of 34 teams from across the state. "I think it's phenomenal for a sophomore to take away the third-highest average (213) in the SIHSBC," Puhse said.

"The only two bowlers to beat him out were seniors. I think the whole team really started to gel together. We had a very strong second half of the season and I think that's definitely going to carry over into next season. To finish 16th is really good for a first season. Most importantly, our players got a feel for what that experience is like. The sophomores and juniors on the team now have that hunger to go back next year and do even better."

The Granite City girls got off to a solid start in the postseason before the wheels came off the track. "The girls didn't do too well

in the playoffs," Puhse said. "We were fifth out of six in the conference at the sectional tournament in Decatur (the state qualifier). After the first round, we were in second place and ended up in fifth. But they far exceeded my expectations as a first-year program."

None more than senior Kristin Stovall, who qualified fourth as an individual at Rockford, averaging 164 in the sectional tournament.

"I think she did a fantastic job of being a real solid factor and team leader this season," Puhse said. "At the beginning of the season, her average was in the low 140's, so over the course of the season she improved 24 or 25 pins. That really made a difference in our season. What was most impressive was that this was her first year of organized bowling ever. That's just a

testament to her natural athletic ability, to pick up the game as quickly as she did."

Stovall received a \$500 scholarship from the Men's 700 club, based not only on her bowling prowess, but on school activities and academic excellence. Unfortunately, Puhse won't have her around to help the program develop.

"It's a shame that we couldn't have her around for two or three years," Puhse said. "But when we went to the five-player format (at sectionals), I was able to take some sophomores that had been on the junior varsity team. It's definitely a positive step for the future that some of the younger players got to experience that."

U.S. Ice Sports offers coed broomball league

The U.S. Ice Sports Complex in Fairview Heights is sponsoring a coed broomball league.

The league will run for 10 weeks, starting on April 6 and finishing on June 9. Games will be on Tuesday and Wednesday nights; game times are tentative. Broomball is played on rough ice, and the game is similar to hockey. All players must be at least 18 years old. Broomball brooms and balls are provided by the rink. Knee pads, elbow pads, helmets and mouth guards are recommended for the safety of players. The rink also provides referees and timekeepers. All teams must have a captain.

The cost is \$750 per team. Participants may register at

the front desk or submit a team roster of no more than 15 players. For more information, call Rob Maher at 398-4600, extension 109.

Golf meeting

The Metro East Golfing Singles will conduct its annual membership meeting 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 7 at Shenanigan's Restaurant, 6401 W. Main St. in Belleville.

Any single adult interested in joining the group is welcome to attend. A presentation about the organization will be given. Snacks and appetizers will be served and a cash bar will be available. For more information, call Dan Mitchell at 398-6431.

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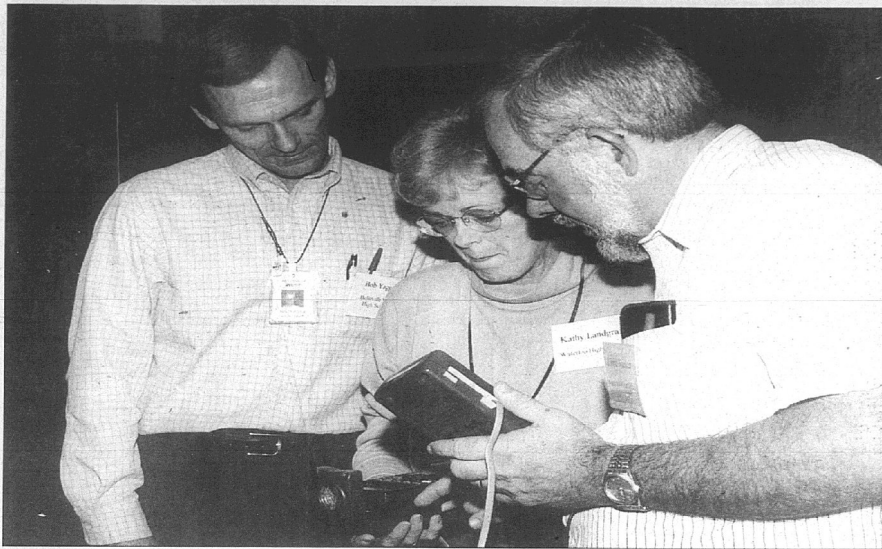
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Crash course in calculators

At right, Belleville West teacher Bob Yagge, left, and Waterloo High School teachers Kathy Landgraf and Lloyd Wacker review the results of their assignment charting movement on a graphing calculator during the Connecting Math and Science Workshop recently held at Belleville Area College. High school teachers from Southern Illinois came together to learn about ways to use the calculators and related equipment in the classroom.



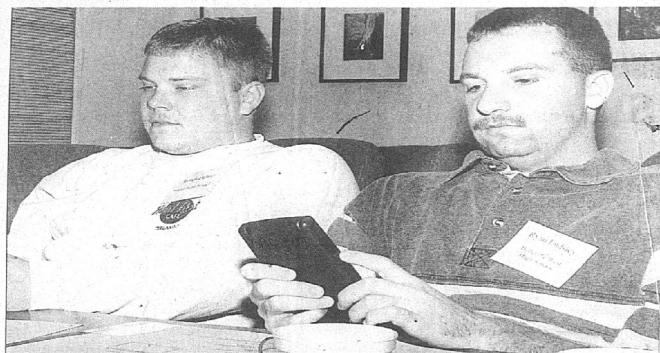
Granite City High School teachers Bill Puhse and Barry Grote do their homework with the help of Teachers Teaching With Technology trainer Aurelia Weil.



Dupu High School teacher James Thomas, from left, O'Fallon High School teacher Pat Hasenstab and Sparta High School teacher Martha House brush up on their skills.



Freeburg High School teachers Missie Steve and Greg Frerking concentrate on the task at hand.



Venice High School teacher James Fulton, left, and Belleville West teacher Ryan Endsley use their calculators.



At right, Granite City High School teacher Denise Albrecht and Coulterville High School teacher Gayle North put their heads together to solve a math problem. The workshop was hosted by BAC's Math Department with funding from the Belleville Area College Foundation Monsanto Fund and Texas Instruments.

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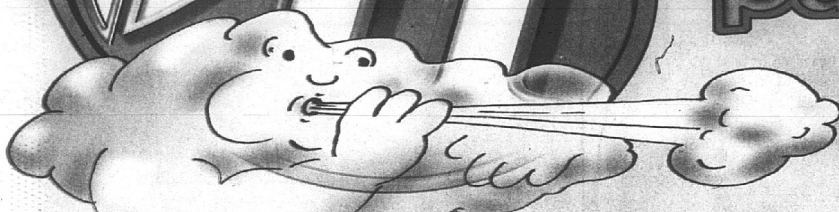
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WB 11 KIDS' page

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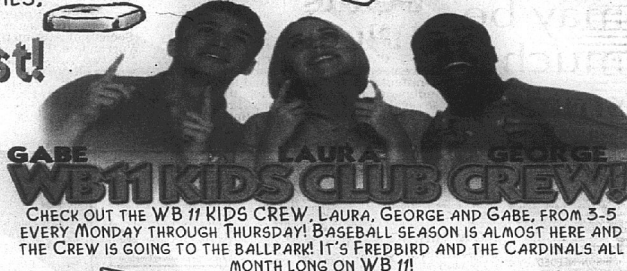
SHOPTOWN'S

You could be a reporter for the 'DUBBA DUBBA UPDATE'

EVERY FRIDAY BETWEEN 3 AND 5 P.M., LAURA, GEORGE AND GABE INFORM ST. LOUIS AREA KIDS ABOUT NEWS, HISTORY AND MORE! NOW, IT COULD BE YOU DOING THE REPORTING!! ON SATURDAY, APRIL 10 AT WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN, WEST COUNTY, IT'S THE 'DUBBA DUBBA UPDATE' AUDITIONS! WE'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE DETAILS, SO KEEP WATCHING WB 11 TO FIND OUT MORE!

Fredbird's Opening Day Contest!

FREDBIRD HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK DURING THE WINTER MONTHS COMING UP WITH SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE CARDINALS OPENING DAY! WHEN YOU SEE FREDBIRD ON WB 11 KIDS, HOLDING THE SIGN THAT SAYS "CALL NOW!" BE THE ELEVENTH CALLER AND YOU WILL BE REGISTERED TO WIN 4 TICKETS TO OPENING DAY AT BUSCH STADIUM ON MONDAY, APRIL 5TH, AND A RIDE TO THE GAME ABOARD THE DUBBA DUBBA BUS. ALSO, EACH DAY ONE LUCKY CALLER WILL GET 4 FREE PASSES TO THE NEW WEHRENBURG THEATER IN ARNOLD. WATCH WB 11 TO FIND OUT MORE!!



GABE LAURA GEORGE
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CHECK OUT THE WB 11 KIDS CLUB CREW, LAURA, GEORGE AND GABE, FROM 3-5 EVERY MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY! BASEBALL SEASON IS ALMOST HERE AND THE CREW IS GOING TO THE BALLPARK! IT'S FREDBIRD AND THE CARDINALS ALL MONTH LONG ON WB 11!

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Automotive

Classifieds

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Pontiac's Bonneville

Front-wheel-drive ages gracefully

By Tom Strongman

The Pontiac Bonneville's current design dates to 1992, yet it still feels contemporary. Frequent updates and continuous improvement have helped it keep up with its competitors, although the gap is widening.

This front-wheel-drive sedan has room for five, decent power, a good-size trunk and a decidedly sporty attitude. The venerable 3.8-liter V-6 engine still sits under the hood, but it is now the second-generation 3800 Series II.

A balance shaft quiets vibration and keeps rumbles from permeating the cockpit. The 4T65-E electronically controlled automatic transmission has "performance" and "normal" shift modes, so the driver can tailor the car's performance to his or her driving habits.

Mid-range power is impressive, particularly with the supercharger. Stomp on the throttle and you're greeted with a surge like that of a V-6.

Bonnevilles are available in SE, SSE and SSEi models. I drove a supercharged SSEi from Pontiac's press fleet.

Its articulating bucket seats, a \$245 option, can be adjusted to suit just about anyone. There are multiple lumbar settings, and the



side cushions under your arms can be moved in or out depending on your size and how tightly you like the seat to hold you. The bottom cushions are large and deep for good under-thigh support.

The instrument panel features a full collection of analog gauges that have white numbers and red needles. At night, they glow red with Pontiac's trademark style. While red gauges are somewhat out of style now, these still look good. A handy touch: Tiny red lights mounted on the underside of the door-panels direct a beam on the buttons for power window and power locks.

An electronic compass and Driver Information Center are both standard on the SSEi, but their bright green color doesn't match

the lighting of the rest of the instruments.

In addition to automatic climate control, the SSEi also features Eye Cue, a head-up display that projects a digital speedometer readout on the windshield so that it appears to be floating in front of the car. Eye Cue appeals to gadget nuts who want to see their speed without taking their eyes from the road. I found the floating display helpful in the daytime but distracting at night, even though it can be dimmed.

Cup holders appear to be an after-thought. A single one folds out of the center console, while two smaller ones are molded into the door panels.

The SSEi's Delco Bose audio system has eight speakers and a CD player.

The Bonneville handles pretty well, although

it lacks the precise feel of some newer models. The car stays flat in turns, but rough roads reveal the suspension's lack of suppleness. This is one area where cars with newer, stiffer body structures excel. Expect the 2000 Bonneville to be much improved.

One gripe I have is the outside mirrors are small, and that restricts their field of view.

Seven years is a long time for a car these days, and Pontiac has done a good job of keeping the Bonneville up to date for that period of time. The base price of the SSEi is \$29,800. Options on the test car included power sun roof, articulating bucket seats and an electronically adjustable suspension.

The sticker price was \$33,270.

Future cars may be much smaller

By Rick Stoff

A tiny car for the commute to work, a larger sedan to take on vacation, a convertible for weekends and a truck for hauling and towing. That's the garage lineup for many people who possess wealth or auto-fanaticism. Sometime in the next century that could be the menu for more people, as traffic congestion, environmental requirements and longing for independence push motorists to have several "changes of clothes" in the garage to fit different traveling needs.

Points & Plugs

One of these days, cheap gasoline surely will disappear. And population growth will in turn lead to traffic growth that will in turn lead to intolerable levels of congestion and pollution. That may require us to get used to cars that are small — very, very small — to meet most of our driving needs.

Most of us could do quite well with a tiny car, says Robert G. Riley, author of "Alternative Cars in the 21st Century" (Society of Automotive Engineers, Warrendale, Pa.).

A two-seat car could handle 87 percent of all current car trips and 83 percent of all vehicle miles traveled in the U.S., Riley says in the book.

People in the developed countries of the world, especially in the U.S. and

Canada, are used to the independence and convenience their cars provide. Means of reducing reliance on personal cars will do some good, he says, but not enough to solve all problems created by personal cars.

"The idea of improving road factors by car pooling is valid but difficult to implement," he says, adding that "transit systems are not a panacea for urban traffic ills, especially in sprawling U.S. (communities)."

Smaller cars, however, can improve conditions in major cities, he says.

"But to make a significant difference, cars must be significantly smaller ..."

Standard automobiles that a new category of personal transportation vehicles

will naturally evolve," Riley says.

He says future driveways may hold "ultralight" automobiles. They would be designed mainly for trips to work and nearby shops, but would need to be able to hit 70 mph for highway use.

Such cars still might be powered by internal combustion engines, but these cars would be so light and have such small power plants they still would deliver 70 to 105 miles per gallon. Reducing fuel consumption also will reduce exhaust emissions.

Riley says these efficient machines still will need to deliver owner satisfaction and driver fun.

"A commuter car likely will have more appeal with consumers if it is given a stylish and high-tech personality," he says.

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Estate Agent offers flexibility

Real estate field offers flexibility

Agents make own hours but face uncertainties of commission work

By Barbara Ponder
Correspondent

It wasn't so much that Anna Fallert didn't like her job. It was just that she worked so many of them in a week.

Fallert, a single mom in the early 1980s, was a school bus driver, a hospital worker and a delivery person.

Then she landed in real estate. "I thought what can I do to make some decent money and not work day and night and be able to spend some time with my kids," said Fallert, a real estate agent with Century 21 Suburban in Florissant.

A newspaper ad led Fallert to Ira E. Berry Inc., which awarded her a scholarship to a real estate school.

Upon obtaining her license in 1985, Fallert of Florissant began working at Century 21.

The first year Fallert sold real estate only part-time but still earned about \$7,500, enough to convince her to quit her other jobs.

Fallert now is a veteran in the field.

"You're basically paid by commission and a lot of people can't handle that," she said.

Fallert remembers struggling, early in her career, to close deals in time to pay her bills. She suggests that others plan ahead for a career in real estate.

"The best time to get into real estate is when you're still living

"The best time to get into real estate is when you're still living at home with your parents. Financially speaking, you've got an edge then. If you're paying bills, you'd better have about a year's worth of expense money put in the bank."

Anna Fallert,
real estate agent

at home with your parents," she said. "Financially speaking, you've got an edge then. If you're paying bills, you'd better have about a year's worth of expense money put in the bank."

Although commissions are negotiable, the standard is 3 percent of the sale price, Fallert said.

An agent's pay is sometimes at the mercy of outside influences. High interest rates slow the real estate market and increase competition among agents. Deals sometimes fall through at the last minute.

Real estate agents are usually

considered independent contractors, who provide their services to a licensed broker on a contract basis and receive commissions in return.

They are responsible for self-employment taxes, provide and maintain their own vehicles including frequent car washes.

"A lot of times we keep our car a lot cleaner than other people," Fallert said, laughing. "You don't want to put someone in the car on top of McDonald's wrappers... Generally we will drive a nicer model and make of car with more leg room."

An outgoing personality is a must, said Fallert, who sells primarily residential real estate.

The agent must form constructive relationships with the parties to the transaction as well as force connections with reliable contractors, qualified appraisers and others incidental to the deal.

"Part of selling a house is getting the deal closed, making everything happen," she said. "Making sure the inspections are done so you're not selling a person a home that will be falling apart."

One way to advance in the field is to obtain a broker's license. Among other benefits, a broker can operate a real estate office or form partnerships.

Fallert in 1987 took a broker's course and obtained a license. An agent also may test out of the course to get the license.

Fallert has not used her bro-



Christian Gooden photo

ker's license yet but maintains it for her future dream of owning a small real estate office in a more rural area.

For agents with a head for paperwork, obtaining an appraiser's license is another avenue of advancement.

Fallert said her favorite aspect of real estate is showing houses.

"I don't look at it as just selling a person a house," she said. "I look at it as helping a person make the wise choice."

A real estate agent helps a client make an informed decision in a number of ways. For example, the agent will point out

potential problems with the property or discuss the track record of property values in the area.

One of the greatest benefits to the profession is a flexible schedule.

The day Fallert spoke in a telephone interview was a case in point. She was at home caring for her children, who were sick.

"You can be a stay-at-home mom with your kids for a day," she said. "You can work your schedule around a trip, around your husband's life, around your children's lives and around a lot of different client's lives."

Fallert has equipped her home with a fax machine, a computer

with a dedicated telephone line and other office equipment.

"I do so much at the house," she said. "So many things will happen late at night especially if you're working with someone from California (because of the time difference)."

Fallert usually works around 30 to 40 hours weekly but occasionally puts in 50 to 60 hours.

Many real estate companies, including Century 21, continue to offer scholarships to prospective agents.

"We're always looking for a good agent because good agents are the backbone of a company," Fallert said.

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Crossword Puzzle

BY NORMAN

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177 Shade tree

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79 Annapolis

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87 Mosas

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95 Anti-drug op

99 Clairvoyant

103 Annapolis

107 Well Street

111 Psychiatrist

115 Hi the - turn

